



# **J. S. Bach's *canon per tonus***

A very famous example of an endlessly rising melody is the *canon per tonus* from Johann Sebastian Bach's Musical Offering. The melody rises two half-tones each time the canon is repeated (this should illustrate the rising glory of Frederick the Great to whom the Musical Offering was dedicated). The canon starts in C minor. After the first run it ends in D minor, so the second turn begins two half-tones higher than the first one. When the canon is repeated further, it begins in: c1, d1, e1, f#1, g#1, bb1, c2, d2.

# Canon circularis per tonos (Bach)

## A musical offering

c-moll



d-moll



etc.