

Dr. Kris Palmer

CHAPTER SIX

THE NORMAL TRILL

The accomplished keyboardist has four trills; the normal, ascending, descending, and half or short trill.¹⁰⁴

Of these four groups in which Bach has classified the trill, the normal trill and the half trill, along with an ornament he terms the snap, are used in the *A Minor Flute Concerto*. There are also many examples of two hybrid ornaments that Bach invents by combining first the half trill and then the snap with a simple turn. The descending trill is not used in any of his four flute concerti, but the ascending trill is used in the *Bb Major Flute Concerto, Wq. 167*.

There are numerous questions that need to be answered by a musician before performing these ornaments: Does each trill start on its upper note or its main note? When there is an upper-note start, how long should it be held, and is it a prebeat start or an on-beat start? What is the speed of the note alternations? Does each trill take a suffix? If so, is there a pause between the last note of the alternations and the suffix? What is the speed of the suffix? How are the trill and its resolution articulated when no slur markings are present? Additionally, Bach introduces in his *Essay* the possibility of performing a different ornament, such as a turn, a trilled turn, or a snapped turn when the trill symbol is notated in nonkeyboard music.

¹⁰⁴ Bach, *Essay*, 100.