

**Why Children Should Be Enabled to Listen Often to Glenn Gould Playing Bach
Keyboard Music on the Piano**

-- at Breakfast, at Lunch, at Play, in the Halls at School, and while Falling Asleep

By Paul Farseth '65

Bach teaches us to live and to think with a *cantabile* or “singing” frame of mind.

Bach teaches us that each voice in the enterprise has something to contribute, some unique expository content beyond the simple “AMEN” or “I agree” of the yes-men in the harmony. Bach models democratic diversity.

Bach reminds us that in the reciprocity of counterpoint there is a yielding by each solo line which works best when the various voices are listening to each other.

Bach teaches us that energy gets work done when it is applied with skill after practice to implement a design. We clap our hands in delight when we see how the music’s forcefulness so effortlessly carries forward the dialogue of the voices, the harmonic progressions, the sense of the inevitability of what we as listeners had not expected.

Bach teaches us that by listening carefully, and again and again, we find something new and interesting. Marriages should be like this, and sometimes they are.

Bach teaches us to recognize emotions for which we have lacked words, allowing us on recognizing them to cry or dance or work again. Bach reminds us that life is played in more than one key, more than one rhythm, more than one theme, but that all these can be played together with direction, harmony, tension, and consonance.

Bach reminds us that Chaos is not the final master of the universe, nor its creator.