Johann Sebastian Bach

Prelude
from Lute Suite No. 4, BWV 1006a

An analysis of John Williams' performance of
The SEVILLE CONCERT
at the
ROYAL ALCÁZAR PALACE
Foreword

This is my maiden and ambitious attempt to notate John Williams' playing of the Prelude of Lute Suite No. 4, BWV 1006a by Johann Sebastian Bach.

It is common knowledge that John Williams did not publish his interpretation of this piece as he believed that music should be unfettered by rigid adherence to standardised expectations or draconian rules. However, to preserve and to detail his playing would add to our understanding of how brilliant interpretation can make Bach come alive and in a way handhold budding guitarists in the personal journey to discover his musical direction through building on existing techniques. Breaking down the piece to bitesize levels, we can appreciate and pick up carefully skills employed by John Williams as he plays the piece and hopefully enhance our own performance.

It appears to go against the grain to bypass Bach's conception of the piece based on yesteryears' cultural and societal settings. One cannot deny though the evolution of music through the passing of time and season. John Williams' interpretation embodies his person and history. As a legend for classical guitar, unlocking the secrets in a clinical study would be a gainful platform for personal development and future self expression. Take for example, Michaelangelo's bust of David, his interpretation of David's beauty has been replicated by many and later improvised. In the same vein, what we are doing here is to learn from the master and develop a personal voice ultimately. Hope you enjoy!

Regards,
Joshua Ho Gwok Hin
Prelude
from BWV 1006a, Lute Suite No. 4

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Legend:

(•)(•) - Notes/Basses believed to have been omitted by John Williams but have appeared in several other versions of the work.

Right/Plucking hand

p - Thumb
i - Index finger
m - Middle finger
a - Ring finger

Left/ Fingerboard hand

0 - Open string
1 - Index finger
2 - Middle finger
3 - Ring finger
4 - Little finger
N - Initial barre with index finger
B - Continual barre with index finger

1, 2, 3 & 4 Fingering with dash
Change fret using the same finger. Most commonly appear when changing note using the same string & finger.

I, II, III, IV, V, VI, VII, VIII, IX, X, XI, XII Roman Numerals
Left/fingerboard hand position. Takes the position of the index finger. In the event when the index finger not used, the position markers assume the positioning in a 1 fret 1 finger settings. For example, when the Ring finger(3) is to be used on the 7th fret, V (fifth position) will be indicated, as that is probably where the Index finger(1) is positioned.

Sidenote:
Bar 1 to 7:
Artistic panning of the camera. Unable to accurately document the fingers used.

Bar 130:
The open string B note acciacatura have been added during this performance and may be accidental. However, B is the perfect fifth of the note E, it may have been part of his interpretation.