

celestial harmonies

Johann Sebastian Bach
Six Suites BWV 1007-1012
Adaption: Ludger Rémy
Ludger Rémy, Cembalo
Celestial Harmonies 14289-2
2 CD
UPC 0 1371 14298 2 6



In the course of the last three centuries, the works of Johann Sebastian Bach have been subjected to a wide range of arrangements and transcriptions. The earliest of these were made by the composer himself, adapting many of his works for various alternative instruments. Beyond that, many believe that the fundamentally polyphonic character of Bach's works must lead to the conclusion that versions for violin and cello are reductions of larger scores, made for practical purposes. This present production, then, is a result of life-long experience and research by one of the leading German figures in the realm of Early Music: a spectacular and insightful version of Bach's Suites for Solo Cello, both arranged and performed by Rémy. The instrument used for the recording is a 1976 copy by the Bremen harpsichord builder Martin Skowronek of an historic model, and the recording was created in the acoustically famed chamber music hall of Radio Bremen.

Rémy emphasizes that “..all these works have one feature in common: they sound like music written specifically for the keyboard, not just like keyboard reductions; they adapt their source to the possibilities of the new instrument, without losing the substance of the composition or its context... Among my main inspirations were the works of Jean Baptiste Antoine Forqueray the Older (1699–1782). His works were good examples to me as they made clear the distinction between straightforward reduction and specific adaptation for a different sound world. Under no circumstances should there be any hint of reduction – it was to be music that, albeit not original, should wholly reflect the possibilities of its new instrument: they should not be Cello Suites, but Harpsichord Suites. Not the abstract idea of Bach should dominate, but Bach on the harpsichord.”

Produktion: Renate Wolter-Seevers
Eine Koproduktion Celestial Harmonies / Radio Bremen

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