

CHANNEL CLASSICS 2017 RELEASE

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BACH

SONATAS AND PARTITAS

for solo violin BWV 1001-1006

NING FENG

- Amazing new reading of Bach's masterpieces
- played on a 1721 Stradivari violin, known as the 'MacMillan'
- a "tribute to the greatest musician of all time" (Ning Feng, liner notes)

AN AMAZING NEW READING OF BACH'S COMPLICATED CHORDS AND FIGURATIONS

It is highly debatable whether Grillparzer (a contemporary of Beethoven and Schubert) knew Bach's six works for violin solo. Nevertheless he manages in this poem, without actually intending to do so, to go right to their core. It seems as if Bach demands the extremes from the violin, even more than it is capable of.

Was there any violinist during Bach's lifetime capable of playing them? Maybe Pisendel, the leading German violinist of his time? Or had he intended his solo works for none other than himself? We still aren't sure, but what is for sure is that Ning Feng would have impressed Bach with his reading of the complicated chords and figurations.

Established at the highest level in China, Feng performs regularly with major international and local orchestras, in recital and with the Dragon Quartet which he founded in 2012. Now based in Berlin and enjoying a global career, Ning Feng has developed a reputation internationally as an artist of great lyricism and emotional transparency, displaying tremendous bravura and awe-inspiring technical accomplishment.

Stammbuchblatt

**Vier arme Saiten! - es klingt wie Scherz -
Für alle Wunder des Schalles!
Hat doch der Mensch nur ein einzig Herz,
und reicht doch hin für alles!**

Franz Grillparzer



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Sonata nr. 1 in g BWV 1001

Adagio
Fuga
Siciliano
Presto

Partita nr.1 in b BWV 1002

Allemanda
Double
Correnta
Double: Presto
Sarabande
Double
Tempo di Borea
Double

Sonate nr.2 in a BWV 1003

Grave
Fuga
Andante
Allegro

Partita nr.2 in d BWV 1004

Allemanda
Corrente
Sarabanda
Giga
Ciaccona

Sonate nr.3 in C BWV 1005

Adagio
Fuga
Largo
Allegro assai

Partita nr.3 in E BWV 1006

Preludio
Loure
Gavotte en Rondeau
Menuet I en II
Bourrée
Gigue

SOCIAL MEDIA

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CONCERT DIARY

Find al of Ning Feng's concerts at:
<http://www.ningfengviolin.com/schedule/>

NING FENG & BACH

I don't think many would argue that Bach's 6 Sonatas and Partitas for solo violin are the ultimate challenge for any violinist, both musically and technically. Even though every violin student tends to study some of the individual movements at a relatively early stage in their training, performing the whole set of these masterpieces requires from the violinist some of the highest technical precision and most sophisticated musical understanding.

Bach' solo works have always been a part of my musical life; I remember that my very first experience of his work was the 'Preludio' from the E Major Partita. I was about 6 or 7 years old and my teacher gave it to me mostly as a exercise to practice my left hand dexterity, and coordination between left and right hand. Later, I started playing the 'Adagio' from the G Minor Sonata, then, after I began studying at the Sichuan Conservatory of Music in my hometown, I started learning the 'Fuga' in the Solo Sonatas. It fascinated me greatly how on a violin, mostly considered to be a single-melody instrument, one could also play multiple melodies and the accompaniment at the same time.

Of course, one of the highlights of my Bach-related memories was playing the great 'Ciaccona' in a masterclass at the Royal Academy of Music for Lord Yehudi Menuhin in 1999 shortly before he passed away. After I finished my performance, the late master said nothing but simply got up from his chair, walked up to me, and gave me a hug. Bach finished this 'Bible' of works for the violin in year 1720 when he was 35, and I started recording these masterworks at the same age, to pay my tribute to the greatest musician of all time.

PRESS

CCS 37916
'Apasionado'
Sarasate, Lalo, Ravel, Bizet-
Waxman

*... he plays with a purity and
sweetness of tone rare among
the current crop of virtuosos ...*

Audiophile Audition



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