



Biber: The Mystery Sonatas

Sonatas 1 - 15 & Passacaglia

Walter Reiter with Cordaria

"thoughtful, reflective and poetic his performances are stylish, idiomatic and vivid"

- Nicholas Anderson, BBC Music Magazine

"a beautifully judged performance"

- Lindsay Kemp, Gramophone

"... there are many extraordinary moments"

- Luis Gago, Goldberg

"The performances are astounding, the variety of bow strokes, the ornamentation of repeats, the occasional colouring of the violins sound - it's simply wonderful"

- Brian Clarke, Early Music Review

This two disc set of Heinrich von Biber's Rosary or Mystery Sonatas presents the complete set of fifteen sonatas and the concluding passacaglia which appears in the sole surviving Munich manuscript.

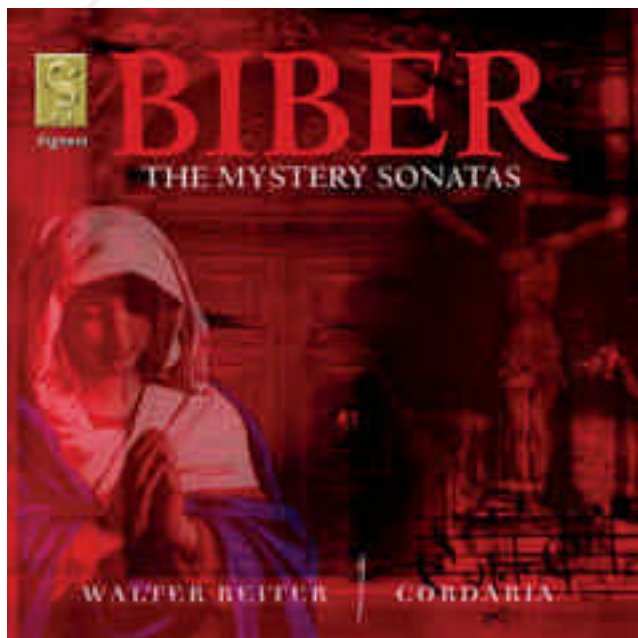
The sonatas each correspond to the fifteen mysteries or meditations on the life of Christ. The meditations are traditionally grouped into three groups of five; Joyful - his early life, Sorrowful - his passion; Glorious - his resurrection.

In writing the sonatas Biber uses scordatura, tuning the strings to a different set of notes for each sonata. This achieves technical feats impossible with normal tuning and results in different sonorities resulting from the varying amounts of pressure from the strings and achieving the different desired mood for each sonata. For the violinist, this involves a constant contradiction between sight and sound, for what he sees is not be what he hears!

Walter Reiter's recording of the Mystery Sonatas is the culmination of a seven year labour of love and is in his own words, is his "most powerfully artistic experience to date".

Walter Reiter founded Cordaria in 1999, primarily to perform and record the violin repertoire of the 17th and 18th centuries, and their first CD for Signum Records, a premier recording on period instruments of Vivaldi's Violin Sonatas Op 2, was internationally acclaimed.

Walter Reiter has played solo recitals in France, Germany, Austria, Israel, England and Canada, has given numerous masterclasses, teaches regularly in Israel, and is a tutor in the Early Music project at the University of Birmingham.



— Disc 1 —

- Sonata no. 1 *The Annunciation*
- Sonata no. 2 *The Visitation*
- Sonata no. 3 *The Nativity*
- Sonata no. 4 *The Presentation of the Infant Jesus in the Temple*
- Sonata no. 5 *The Twelve-Year-Old Jesus in the Temple*
- Sonata no. 7 *The Scourging at the Pillar*
- Sonata no. 6 *Christ on the Mount of Olives*
- Sonata no. 8 *The Crown of Thorns*
- Sonata no. 9 *Jesus carries the cross*

Total running time: [69:36]

— Disc 2 —

- Sonata no. 10 *The Crucifixion*
- Sonata no. 11 *The Resurrection*
- Sonata no. 12 *The Ascension*
- Sonata no. 13 *Pentecost*
- Sonata no. 14 *The Assumption of the Virgin*
- Sonata no. 15 *The Beatification of the Virgin*
- Passacaglia

Total running time: [69:03]

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