



The Italian Concerto & The French Overture

Harpsichord Music by J. S. Bach

Lucy Carolan

What the critics said about Lucy Carolan's previous disc:

"An excellent recording of Bach's partitas, ... deserves a place in the pantheon of the best available versions of these works."

- Kirk McElhearn, MusicWeb

"Carolan...consistently brings out the infinite expressive subtleties of the music"

- Nicholas Anderson, BBC Music Magazine, (five star rating)

"....sets new standards for the new millennium"

- Stephen Daw, Early Music Review

Signum Records presents the second volume of Lucy Carolan's recordings of Bach's keyboard music consisting of works from Volumes two, three and four of his "Clavierübung". Volume two contains the popular Italian Concerto and French Overture and concentrates on the number "two" - two pieces, two keys, two modes, two nations (Italy and France) and a two-manual harpsichord.

The Italian Concerto is unique: a wholly original solo keyboard work written as if "transcribed" from a string original to which Bach adds strikingly new ideas expressly suited for harpsichord. Bach had acquired his knowledge of Italian repertoire early on by transcribing Vivaldi violin concertos for solo harpsichord around 1712-13.

The contrasting French Overture contains lighter dances from the court of Louis XIV such as the gavotte, the passepied and bourrée - all are dance forms which had been familiar to Bach from his childhood.

The disc also includes duets from volume three and the Chromatic Fantasia and Fugue which, although unpublished during Bach's lifetime, became an inspiration to subsequent generations of composers.

Born and brought up in Edinburgh, Lucy Carolan was fortunate enough to encounter the world-famous Russell Collection of Early Keyboard Instruments while studying music at Edinburgh University, and was subsequently awarded a scholarship to study harpsichord with Gustav Leonhardt in Amsterdam. Lucy Carolan performs throughout Britain and Europe as both soloist and continuo player on virginals, harpsichord, clavichord and fortepiano, in music ranging from the Dublin Virginal Manuscript to Michael Tippett. A frequent solo recitalist, she has been particularly acclaimed for her interpretations of J.S.Bach, and her repertoire includes all the major Bach harpsichord works. Since 1991 she has taught harpsichord at Birmingham Conservatoire.



Italian Concerto BWV 971

1	[Allegro]	4.03
2	Andante	4.46
3	Presto	3.54

Chromatic Fantasia and Fugue, BWV 904

4	Fantasia	5.47
5	Fugue	6.06

Four Duets, BWV 802

6.	No. 1 in E Minor	2.40
7.	No. 2 in F Major	3.18
8.	No. 3 in G Minor	3.38
9.	No. 4 in A Minor	2.58

French Overture BWV 831

10.	Ouverture	7.33
11.	Courante	2.11
12.	Gavotte I - Gavotte II - Gavotte I	4.16
13.	Passepied I - Passepied II - Passepied I	3.45
14.	Sarabande	3.55
15.	Bourée	3.16
16.	Gigue	2.25
17.	Echo	3.00

Total Running Time 67.43

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