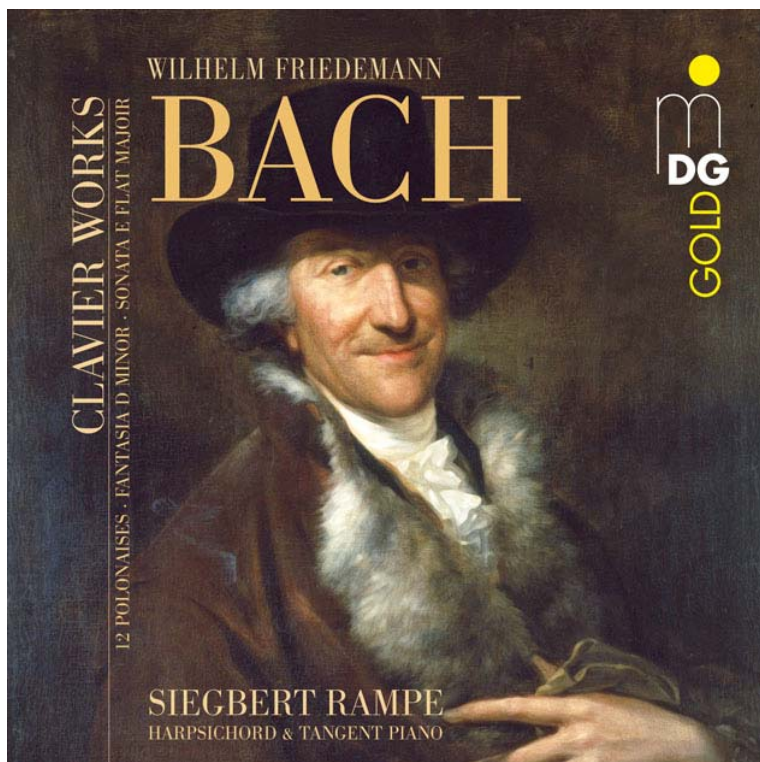


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11/09- (5)

Title:

Wilhelm Friedemann Bach
(1710-1784)
12 Polonoises pour le Clavecin
Fantasia D minor,
Sonata E flat major

Artist:

Siegbert Rampe,
Harpsichord and Tangent Piano

1 CD

Order Number:

MDG 341 1592-2

UPC-Code:



Birthday Bash

Happy Birthday, Wilhelm Friedemann! In anticipation of the three hundredth anniversary of the birth of the "Halle Bach" in 2010, Siegbert Rampe is presenting recording premieres of piano compositions by Johann Sebastian Bach's eldest son on original instruments. The anniversary recording adds impressive new details to the familiar picture of Wilhelm Friedemann Bach as a genial improviser on the organ who in his almighty musical father's shadow wrote some musically and technically extraordinarily challenging works.

Paternal Care

No other Bach son began his musical education as early in his childhood as did Wilhelm Friedemann. He began his training as an organist at the age of nine, and on the side his father playfully encouraged him to pen his first compositions. In 1726 Johann Sebastian Bach had his number-one son interrupt his schooling so that he could be trained as a violinist, and in 1733 the senior Bach wrote a recommendation in his own hand for his son for the post of organist at St. Sophia's Church in Dresden. Thirteen years later the junior Bach received a second endorsement from his father: he applied with success for the posts of music director and organist at the Church of Our Lady in Halle and then went on to hold these posts for eighteen years. During the last two decades of his life the Halle Bach focused on teaching and on his famous improvisations for harpsichord and organ.

Concerted Effort

Wilhelm Friedemann Bach's *12 Polonoises pour le Clavecin* are among his best-known works in music circles. He worked out these diverse character pieces on paper, over many years, with great care, and in two stages. He himself termed them concert pieces, and their character may be said to represent a musical anticipation of the ebullient early-romantic emotional world. What a contrast is formed to them by the *Fantasia* composed in Dresden and the *Sonata in E flat major* written in Halle in 1748!

Instrumental Inventory

For his recording of the sonata Siegbert Rampe has selected an original tangent grand piano from 1788, a fortepiano with the tangent action then in use in German-speaking Central Europe. This expert in the field of early instruments presents us the twelve polonoises and the fantasia on a copy of the harpsichord that Wilhelm Friedemann received as a gift from his father in 1733. Today the original is on display in the Berlin Musical Instruments Museum.

W. A. Mozart: Complete Clavier Works Vol. 10

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G. Fr. Händel: Clavier Music MDG 341 1537-2

"In addition to the captivating repertoire and performance, I rate this disc very highly as an eloquent contribution to the debate on how to perform baroque keyboard music."

(www.musicweb-international.com)