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MDG
SCENE



09/14-(5)

Johann Stamitz
1717-1757
Violin Sonatas op. 6

Stephan Schardt, violin
Michael Behringer, harpsichord

1 Hybrid-SACD

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RECORDING

MDG 903 1862-6

UPC-Code:



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Challenging Six

Johann Stamitz's six Violin Sonatas op. 6 were first published following his death - which is hardly surprising, for who besides the composer himself would then have been able to meet their breakneck violinistic challenges? Stamitz was famous for his absolutely incredible finger dexterity, a reputation that this father of the German violin school continues to enjoy even today. Stephan Schardt not only has taken up this challenge but also delights and surprises the listener with an album brimming with perfect beauty and offering more than mere virtuosic stunts.

Rococo Castle

The adagio movements opening the sonatas are endowed with special splendor. For starters, the theme in the adagio of the Sonata in G major seems to have been written for the sole purpose of offering space to ornaments and arabesques. One feels than one has been spirited away into a musical rococo castle with rich stucco ornaments covering the walls. The fast middle movements are breathtaking: daredevil leaps over several strings are not uncommon, and the ease with which Stephan Schardt handles these violinistic top velocities produces unlimited listening pleasure.

Chamber Sphere

Here Michael Behringer's highly imaginative continuo playing makes a significant contribution. Just magnificent – how he improvisationally negotiates the numerous violinistic curves, comments on them, and

varies them without forcing his way into the foreground! This is late baroque duo playing at its absolute best and an impressive demonstration of the fact that Johann Stamitz, who in Mannheim catapulted orchestral music into a new sphere, was also a top name in chamber music.

Royal Comfort

Things are especially fine on MDG's 2+2+2 production: in the three-dimensional sound of this carefully produced Super Audio CD you can almost reach out and touch the performance. With a mere six loud speakers even the smallest living room becomes a festival hall; you can hear the full-bottomed wigs and the fine cambric of the opulent robes. You can feel like a castle lord or lady in your own home – and that is royal comfort for the ears.

Ferdinand David (1810-1873)

Works for Violin and Piano
12 Salonstücke op. 24, Salon-Duette op. 25. Trois Impromptus op. 40, Suite for Violine Solo op. 43
Stephan Schardt, violin
Philipp Vogler, piano
MDG 903 1774-6

Georg Philipp Telemann (1681-1767)

Frankfurt Sonatas 1715
Stephan Schardt, violin
Elisabeth Wand, violoncello
Sonja Kemnitzer, harpsichord
MDG 903 1835-6

