

Georg Hendrik Witte (1843-1929)

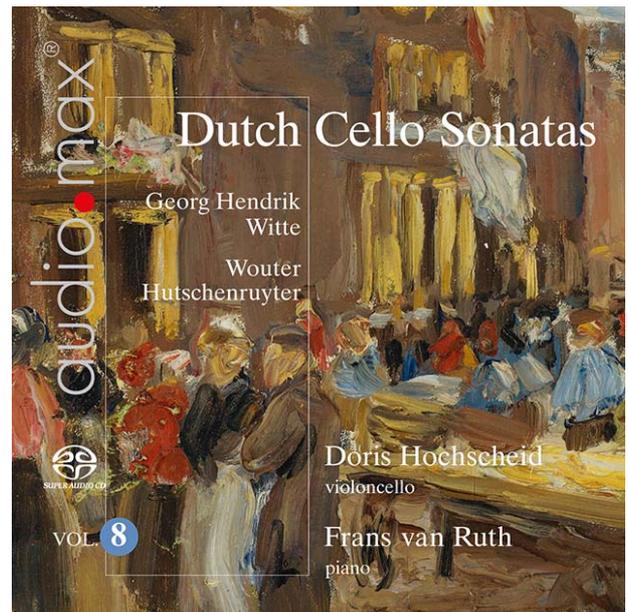
Wouter Hutschenruyter (1859-1943)

Dutch Cello Sonatas Vol 8
Sonata and 3 pieces Sonata

Doris Hochscheid, violoncello
Frans van Ruth, piano

Audiomax 903 2094-6 (SACD)

UPC-Code:



Crowning Culmination

An astonishing success story goes into its second overtime on Vol. 8 of our *Dutch Cello Sonata* series. This time this release is really supposed to mark the conclusion, and for this occasion Doris Hochscheid and Frans van Ruth have selected sonatas by Georg Hendrik Witte and Wouter Hutschenruyter made to order for a crowning culmination. Utrecht was the hometown of both composers, but their paths also crossed in other places.

Premier(e) Invitations

On a recommendation from Richard Strauss, Witte gained a foothold in Essen, where he shaped its expanding music culture over many years. He had a special talent for persuading the greats of the European music world to come to perform in Essen, which until then had been a rather insignificant coal-mining town. A special high point was surely his role in initiating the premiere of Gustav Mahler's Symphony No. 6 in Essen's recently built concert hall – in a performance by the Utrecht Orchestra, which had developed into a phenomenal ensemble with Wouter Hutschenruyter as its principal conductor.

Fantastic Inspirations

The compositions of the two are also closely related. Witte had received significant impulses during his studies in Leipzig. The tradition of Schumann and Mendelssohn held in the highest honor in that city is in audible evidence in his works. The *Drei Stücke* (Three Pieces) in particular clearly reveal Schumann's famous *Fantasiestücke* as their source of inspiration. The fantastic element was also very dear to Hutschenruyter, who briefly studied with Schumann's in-law Bargiel. Already the slow beginning of his sonata is pure romanticism.

Royal Recognition

Doris Hochscheid and Frans van Ruth long ago began writing discographic history with their *Dutch Cello Sonatas*. What began as a documentary project quickly became an insider's tip for audiophile music fans. All the volumes of course have been produced in high-resolution 3-D sound. The project has even met with royal recognition. For their services to Dutch music these two ECHO-prizewinning musicians were inducted into the Order of Orange-Nassau! What wonderful congratulations – and we enthusiastically join in the applause!

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