

Vincent Bernhardt,
Harpsichord
J.S. Bach
Das Wohltemperierte
Klavier Teil 1

2 CDs



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Hello,

The harpsichordist Vincent BERNHARDT is proposing a colorful and flamboyant version of the Well-Tempered Clavier, where virtuosity rhymes with variety, recorded for the first time on a large German harpsichord with the low "16-foot" choir typical of Bach's time.

Frank Daro explains: "The instrument chosen for this recording is a 16-foot harpsichord built in 2018 by Matthias Kramer (Berlin) after a model by Christian Zell, a harpsichord maker contemporary with J.S. Bach.

In reference to an advertisement for the sale of a harpsichord by Christian Zell's widow, Matthias Kramer created an extrapolation of the "Zell 1728" model to two keyboards kept in the Kunst- und Gewerbemuseum in Hamburg. This instrument with four stops and a lute stop is therefore both typical of the very large German harpsichords of Bach's time, and quite exceptional because of the multitude of sound combinations it allows.

The addition of an extra splint (double-curved) increases the length by 30cm and has a second soundboard for the strings of the 16' stop, which sounds an octave lower than the usual registers and gives the instrument an exceptional sound dimension. Even when this stop is not activated, the larger size of the elements resonates creating an increased brightness and strong instrumental presence.

This harpsichord was provided and prepared by the harpsichord maker Frank Daro in Remerschen (Luxembourg).



Such harpsichords with 16' stops are attested to the Baroque period in Germany, Italy and England, and a few examples have survived to the present time. However, they have always been extremely rare, as their construction is very demanding and delicate, and therefore particularly expensive.

Some period writings mention that there was a 16' harpsichord built by Zacharias Hildebrandt at the "Kaffee Zimmermann" in Leipzig, where J. S. Bach performed weekly with his Collegium Musicum.

In France, there was no harpsichord in 16' and it is still almost unknown today. One reason for this may be the closeness that French harpsichord music has to the sound of the lute.

Vincent Bernhardt's interpretation is a magnificent demonstration of the richness of colour and contrast offered by this extraordinary instrument."

Vincent Bernhardt

Harpichordist, Organist, Head of Baroque Ensembles

Combining assiduous instrumental practice with solid musicological work, Vincent Bernhardt is a complete musician: internationally renowned harpsichordist and organist, pedagogue and director of baroque ensembles, he is also preparing a doctoral thesis.

Born in 1987, he studied in Metz, Lyon (CRR and Conservatoire National Supérieur), Stuttgart (Hochschule für Musik) and Basel (Schola Cantorum). He holds four master's degrees in music performance (organ, harpsichord, basso continuo and organ) and has trained with internationally renowned pedagogues (Andrea Marcon, Jesper Christensen, Yves Rechsteiner, François Espinasse, Liesbeth Schlumberger, Bernhard Haas, Jörg Andreas Bötticher, Lorenzo Ghielmi, Norbert Pétry, Jon Laukvik, Gérard Geay...). He also studied conducting with Andrea Marcon (baroque repertoire) and Julien Leroy (symphonic repertoire), was introduced to the medieval keyboard repertoire with Christophe Deslignes and was marked by the teaching of Willem Jansen and Michael Radulescu.

As a harpsichord and organist, he has given numerous concerts as a soloist: cathedrals of Lausanne, Lyon, Metz, Le Havre, Forcalquier, Dunblane, Freiberg...; international festival Città di Treviso, Toulouse-les-Orgues festival, Orgel Festival Holland, Leo Brouwer

festival in Cuba, Seviq Brežice festival in Slovenia, Saint Andrews Organ Week, Silbermann Festival; antique harpsichords from the Tagliavini collection in Bologna...

He has recorded a disc dedicated to Georg Böhm and the early works of J.S. Bach, on the Rémy Mahler organ in Baïgorry. In 2009, he founded the early music ensemble *Il delirio fantastico*, since then recognized as one of the most promising young French ensembles, with which he has conducted more than 70 Bach cantatas and a large number of instrumental works from the 17th and 18th centuries, with a particular interest mostly in unknown composers.



At the head of this ensemble, he was awarded a CHOC from the magazine *Classica* for the album "Vivaldi: Concerti di Parigi", published by Calliope. A second CD, "Vivaldi: Concerti da camera", was released in 2018 and received great critical acclaim (5 Diapason Awards). Since his debut as a harpsichordist with the European Union Baroque Orchestra at the age of 19, he has also performed with ensembles such as La Cetra Barockorchester, the Freiburger Barockorchester, the Ensemble Gilles Binchois, the RIAS-Kammerchor in Berlin, La Chapelle Rhénane, the Artemandoline Ensemble and the Luxembourg, Lorraine, Heidelberg, Essen and Cologne Symphony Orchestras.

CD1 Duration: 57:08min

CD2 Duration: 62:20min

Wishing you a beautiful discovery and remaining at your disposal for any further information, Yours sincerely

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