

LET THE CELLO TALK

in a new version of J.S. Bach Six Cello Suites, by virtuoso Henrik Dam Thomsen



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Nobody knows why Johann Sebastian Bach composed his six suites for solo cello. Nor does anybody know how it came about that the suites were soon afterwards consigned to oblivion and more than a century before a 13-year-old Spanish musical prodigy discovered a worn copy of the score in a second-hand bookstore store in Barcelona. For the next 11 years Pablo Casals practiced them every day. Finally, in 1936, he entered London's Abbey Road studios to record the second and third suites for the first time. The rest, as they say, is history. Today, Bach's cello suites have become a rite of passage for all aspiring cellists.

For Henrik Dam Thomsen, solo cellist in Danish National Symphony Orchestra, the Bach cello suites are an integral part of his life, just as they are for all top-flight cellists. During the Covid shutdown, Henrik Dam Thomsen had the opportunity to immerse himself yet deeper into the Bach suites. 'When one plays the suites, one is obliged to undertake many choices with regard to all the knowledge about Baroque music now available.' Thomsen felt it was important to remain true to his own instrument and perform on his regular cello, a Francesco Ruggieri built in 1680, using modern strings, played with a conventional bow and tuned to the usual 442 Hz. These choices ensured the best homogeneity for the suites as a whole.

The suites were recorded in the burnished acoustics of the Baroque Garnisons Church (Garnisons Kirke) in Copenhagen, beautifully captured in the immersive DXD format (352.8 kHz/24bit) by Mikkel Nymand. The digital release will be in Dolby Atmos.

A few review quotes on previous recordings:

"Thomsen is a Rolls Royce among players" CLASSIC FM MAGAZINE

"This young Danish cellist' is clearly someone to watch" THE STRAD

"Henrik Dam Thomsen is a splendid player, technically assured, showing strong rapport with both the main works." GRAMOPHONE

DISC 1

JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH

I Suite no. 1 in G Major, BWV 1007

1	Prélude	2.38
2	Allemande.....	4.30
3	Courante.....	2.33
4	Sarabande.....	2.52
5	Menuets I/II.....	3.15
6	Gigue	1.49
	Total.....	17.38

II Suite no. 2 in D Minor, BWV 1008

7	Prélude	4.21
8	Allemande.....	3.45
9	Courante.....	1.57
10	Sarabande.....	4.49
11	Menuets I/II.....	2.59
12	Gigue	2.41
	Total.....	20.33

III Suite no. 3 in C Major, BWV 1009

13	Prélude	3.29
14	Allemande.....	3.47
15	Courante.....	2.59
16	Sarabande.....	4.10
17	Bourrées I/II.....	3.39
18	Gigue	3.12
	Total.....	21.18

DISC 1: Total 59.21

Cat. No: 8.226921

DISC 2

JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH

IV Suite no. 4 in E flat Major, BWV 1010

1	Prélude	4.10
2	Allemande.....	4.03
3	Courante.....	3.36
4	Sarabande.....	4.28
5	Bourrées I/II.....	4.49
6	Gigue	2.47
	Total.....	23.53

V Suite no. 5 in C Minor, BWV 1011

7	Prélude	6.03
8	Allemande.....	5.36
9	Courante.....	2.02
10	Sarabande.....	3.51
11	Gavottes I/II	4.55
12	Gigue	2.20
	Total.....	24.50

VI Suite no. 6 in D Major, BWV 1012

13	Prélude	4.53
14	Allemande.....	8.15
15	Courante.....	3.54
16	Sarabande.....	5.19
17	Gavottes I/II	4.13
18	Gigue	4.14
	Total.....	30.49

DISC 2 Total 74.32

Cat. No: 8.226922

Link for direct stream:

<https://www.ourrecordings.com/stream-music>