



GEN 13268

The series of CD releases on Genuin by young cellist Nicolas Altstaedt has already taken in concertos by Haydn, and solo works by composers from Schumann and Killmayer to Webern and Ligeti. This latest release brings together the three sonatas that Bach left for viola da gamba. Although fairly familiar to us in this form, they were almost certainly arrangements from earlier pieces for other instruments. Only one survives in a manuscript in Bach's hand and that as a trio sonata for two flutes and basso continuo.

Performances today can be on modern or period instruments, viola or cello. Altstaedt opts to play on his 1821 Lupot cello with steel strings, but at a lower, period pitch. With Jonathan Cohen providing expert accompaniments at the harpsichord, the balance is good, and the recording from the Jesus-Christus-Kirche in Berlin spacious, but not booming (the thunderstorm mentioned in the booklet notes is never audible). Altstaedt's warmly lyrical tone and elegant musicianship win this disc a warm recommendation. **Richard Fairman**

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