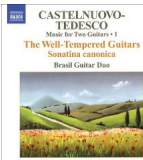


Mario Castelnuovo-Tedesco - Music for Two Guitars Vol. 1 (2008)



Sonatina canonica, Op. 196 1. *I. Mosso, grazioso e leggero* 00:03:13 2. *II. Tempo di Siciliane* 00:04:03 3. *III. Fandango en Rondeau* 00:02:34 Les
guitares bien temperees (The Well-Tempered Guitars): Preludes and Fugues, Op. 199: Nos.
1-12
4. *Prelude No. 1 in G Minor* 00:01:56 5. *Fugue No. 1 in G Minor* 00:02:48 6. *Prelude
No. 2 in D Major* 00:02:20 7. *Fugue No. 2 in D Major* 00:01:37 8. *Prelude No. 3 in A Minor*
00:02:18 9. *Fugue No. 3 in A Minor* 00:03:03 10. *Prelude No. 4 in E Major* 00:02:24 11.
Fugue No. 4 in E Major 00:01:55 12. *Prelude No. 5 in B Minor* 00:02:33 13. *Fugue No. 5
in B Minor* 00:02:19 14. *Prelude No. 6 in F - Sharp Major* 00:01:23 15. *Fugue No. 6 in F -
Sharp Major* 00:02:06 16. *Prelude No. 7 in C - Sharp Minor* 00:01:40 17. *Fugue No. 7 in
C - Sharp Minor* 00:03:31 18. *Prelude No. 8 in A - Flat Major* 00:02:24 19. *Fugue No. 8 in
A - Flat Major* 00:02:42 20. *Prelude No. 9 in E - Flat Minor* 00:03:02 21. *Fugue No. 9 in E
- Flat Minor* 00:02:30 22. *Prelude No. 10 in B - Flat Major* 00:01:57 23. *Fugue No. 10 in B
- Flat Major* 00:02:02 24. *Prelude No. 11 in F Minor* 00:03:20 25. *Fugue No. 11 in F Minor*
00:03:19 26. *Prelude No. 12 in C Major* 00:01:11 27. *Fugue No. 12 in C Major* 00:01:57
Brasil Guitar Duo (João Luiz & Douglas Lora)

With a catalogue of more than 200 works with opus numbers, and many others without, few composers have written such a wide variety of immediately appealing music, as rewarding for performers and listeners alike, as Castelnuovo-Tedesco. His *Sonatina Canonica*, Op. 196 is a staple for many guitar duos, its warm tonal language enlivened by ingenious counterpoint. Fired by profound admiration for the music of J. S. Bach, his *Les Guitares Bien Tempérées*, Op. 199 comprises 24 preludes and fugues in all major and minor keys, the first dozen of which are performed here by the award-winning young Brasil Guitar Duo. --- naxos.com

The Sonata Canonica, Op. 196, by the prolific Italian-American composer Mario Castelnuovo-Tedesco, has opened many a duo-guitar recital. It's a pleasant neo-classic romp that's over in 10 minutes, with the lively use of counterpoint implied by the title. Not so common, or so easily programmed, is another Castelnuovo-Tedesco work from the early '60s, Les Guitares Bien Tempérées, Op. 199, a set of 24 preludes and fugues for two guitars, inspired by Bach's Well-Tempered Clavier. Castelnuovo-Tedesco's preludes and fugues, unlike other sets written in homage to Bach, are arranged not in scalar sequence but in minor-major pairs a fifth apart, beginning with G minor and ending with C major. They're also exceptional in that they can be classified as light music. The dominant spirit is playfulness, and this emerges most of all, oddly enough, in the fugues. Each one has something unexpected. Perhaps a long, complex theme will be recovered piecemeal for its subsequent appearances, or perhaps it will be derived, seemingly impossibly, from that of its corresponding prelude. The preludes itself are quite a varied lot, with effects such as flamenco rhythms and harmonics introduced in an unobtrusive way. There is logic to the whole set, but individual pieces could be included on any recital tracing Bach's influence and would contribute something unusual to it. The performance by the youthful Brasil Guitar Duo is clean and sensitive to the fun of the music, and the engineers avoid putting the listener too close to the players in the live environment of suburban Toronto's St. John Chrysostom Church. A pleasant guitar release that will insinuate itself into your playpile. ---James Manheim, Rovi

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