J.S. Bach – Inventions & Partita (Janine Jansen) [2007]

Two-part Inventions, BWV 772/786 *1) No. 1 in C, BWV 772 2) No. 2 in C minor, BWV 773 3) No. 3 in D, BWV 774 4) No. 4 in D minor, BWV 775 5) No. 5 in E flat, BWV 776 6) No. 6 in E, BWV 777 7) No. 7 in E minor, BWV 778 8) No. 8 in F, BWV 779 9) No. 9 in F minor, BWV 780 10) No. 10 in G, BWV 781 11) No. 11 in G minor, BWV 782 12) No. 12 in A, BWV 783 13) No. 13 in A minor, BWV 784 14) No. 14 in B flat, BWV 785 15) No. 15 in B minor, BWV 786*
Partita for Violin Solo No.2 in D minor, BWV 1004
16) 1. Allemande 17) 2. Corrente 18) 3. Sarabande 19) 4. Giga 20) 5. Ciaccona
Three-Part Inventions, BWV 787-801
21) No.1 in C, BWV 787 22) No.2 in C minor, BWV 788 23) No.3 in D, BWV 789 24) No.4 in D minor, BWV 790 25) No.5 in E flat, BWV 791 26) No.6 in E, BWV 792 27) No.7 in E minor, BWV 793 28) No.8 in F, BWV 794 29) No.9 in F minor, BWV 795 30) No.10 in G, BWV 796 31) No.11 in G minor, BWV 797 32) No.12 in A, BWV 798 33) No.13 in A minor, BWV 799 34) No.14 in B flat, BWV 800 35) No.15 in B minor, BWV 801
Janine Jansen, Violin Maxim Rysanov, Viola Torleif Thedéen, Cello

Fresh from a triumphant concerto recording featuring Mendelssohn and Bruch, the pillars of the Romantic violin repertoire, Janine Jansen reverts to the roots of violin playing, and the music of Bach. On her latest recording, Janine performs Bach's beloved two and three part inventions specially transcribed for violin, viola and cello. She brings a characteristically fresh approach to the popular repertoire, with a unique survey of the musical voices of Bach. Janine herself takes center stage for a luminous performance of Partita No. 2 in D minor for solo violin. Violist Maxim Rysanov joins her for Two-Part Inventions BWV 772a-788 and cellist Torleif Thedeen adds a third voice for Three-Part Inventions BWV 787-801. ---amazon.com

Listeners looking for an exercise in virtuosity may find Janine Jansen's 2007 Bach recording a disappointment; the serious nature of the program precludes showboating. But listeners hoping that Jansen had more musical individuality to offer than was revealed in her early recordings of standard violin showpieces may find this recording a wonderful surprise.

In the Inventions, Jansen is an equal partner with violist Maxim Rysanov and cellist Torleif Thedéen in performances of wit, feeling, and subtle grace. In the Partita and especially its excruciatingly ecstatic Chaconne, Jansen delivers consummate musicality and surpassing emotional honesty. Decca's sound is close and evocative. ---James Leonard, Rovi

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