

NAXOS Historical

J. S. BACH: The Well-Tempered Clavier, Book II 8.111061-63



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ADD

Johann Sebastian
BACH
 (1685-1750)

Playing
 Time
 3:12:54

The Well-Tempered Clavier, Book II

CD 1	61:33	13-14	Prelude and Fugue BWV 885	7:49	
1-2	Prelude and Fugue BWV 870	5:23	15-16	Prelude and Fugue BWV 886	9:48
3-4	Prelude and Fugue BWV 871	6:19	CD 3	64:38	
5-6	Prelude and Fugue BWV 872	5:24	1-2	Prelude and Fugue BWV 887	10:59
7-8	Prelude and Fugue BWV 873	7:38	3-4	Prelude and Fugue BWV 888	3:50
9-10	Prelude and Fugue BWV 874	8:55	5-6	Prelude and Fugue BWV 889	5:40
11-12	Prelude and Fugue BWV 875	4:32	7-8	Prelude and Fugue BWV 890	8:38
13-14	Prelude and Fugue BWV 876	4:59	9-10	Prelude and Fugue BWV 891	10:48
15-16	Prelude and Fugue BWV 877	11:05	11-12	Prelude and Fugue BWV 892	6:21
17-18	Prelude and Fugue BWV 878	7:13	13-14	Prelude and Fugue BWV 893	5:30
CD 2	66:43				
1-2	Prelude and Fugue BWV 879	8:20	Appendix:		
3-4	Prelude and Fugue BWV 880	8:06	Prelude, Fugue and Allegro		
5-6	Prelude and Fugue BWV 881	8:10	in E flat major, BWV 998		
7-8	Prelude and Fugue BWV 882	6:29	15	Prelude	3:05
9-10	Prelude and Fugue BWV 883	12:32	16	Fugue	7:00
11-12	Prelude and Fugue BWV 884	5:25	17	Allegro	2:45

Wanda Landowska, who continued to perform and record up to her death in 1959, was renowned as the greatest harpsichordist of the first half of the twentieth century. *Book II* of her recording of Bach's *Well-Tempered Clavier* was made between 1951 and 1954 at her home in Lakeville Connecticut. As with all of Landowska's recordings, what strikes the listener most is her vitality, her musical integrity, and her total commitment to the music she is playing. Landowska brings a unique mood, style and character to the great *Prelude and Fugue in E major* which she described as 'one of the most perfect works of music.' Her heartfelt interpretation of the *Prelude and Fugue in F sharp minor* can be best summed up in her own words: 'When Bach writes of sorrow, it never crushes us. Perhaps because there is no trace of bitterness. This music, even if it describes rebellion or anguish, fortifies us.' Landowska's recording of *Book I* is available on Naxos 8.110314-15.

Wanda Landowska, harpsichord

Recorded from July 1951 to March 1954 in Lakeville, Connecticut
 (from BWV 870 to BWV 893)
 and 2nd May, 1946 in the Lotos Club, New York City (BWV 998)

Reissue producer and Audio Restoration Engineer: Mark Obert-Thorn
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