

François Couperin published two collections of chamber music – the *Concerts Royaux* in 1722 and *Les Nations* in 1726 – in what today would be called open scoring, so that they could be performed by whatever instruments were to hand. But he confessed in the preface to a later publication that he himself preferred to perform them on two harpsichords, although that suggestion had to wait for this two-album series to be taken up in recordings. Here *Les Nations* and movements from the *Concerts Royaux* are presented with a number of his *Pièces de clavecin*, also in rarely heard realisations for two harpsichords.



TOCC 0258

FRANÇOIS COUPERIN Music for Two Harpsichords, Volume Two

1 <i>Concerts Royaux, Quatrième Concert</i> (1722): Forlane	3:01
2 <i>Les Nations, Premier Ordre: La Française</i> (1726)	22:23
11 <i>Pièces de Clavecin, Second Livre, Neuvième Ordre</i> (1717): Allemande à deux Clavecins*	4:26
12 <i>Pièces de Clavecin, Troisième Livre, Quinzième Ordre</i> (1722): Muséte de Choisi – Muséte de Taverni*	5:14
14 <i>Les Nations, Troisième Ordre: L'Impériale</i> (1726)	30:59

Jochewed Schwarz and Emer Buckley, harpsichords

TT 66:03

ALL EXCEPT * FIRST RECORDINGS

Comments on Volume One

‘The playing by harpsichordists Jochewed Schwarz and Emer Buckley is finely matched. Both blend well with each other and provide a strong, virile performance that brings the nuances and ornaments of Couperin’s music to life. One can see through their interplay why the composer considered this his ideal performance medium.’

Fanfare

‘engaging interpretations by congenial partners’

MusicWeb International

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