



Suites for Viola by Reger, Busch & Weinreich

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The great two finds on this release: violist Roland Glasl and composer Justus Weinreich. Glasl has immaculate intonation, a flawless technique, and a full, firm tone. Weinreich (1858–1927) was a court musician at Karlsruhe, but aside from that not much is known about him. His three suites are modeled on an 18th-Century dances. The shadow of Bach looms over this music. I wouldn't say that these compositions are as masterly as Reger's suites, but they are refreshingly different.

More along the lines of Reger is the Suite by Adolf Busch (1891–1952). It is simpler than Reger, but not as obvious an homage to the baroque as Weinreich's suites. This is an interesting collection of rare music for solo viola and the finest recordings of the Reger solo viola suites that I know. Roland Glasl plays a viola made by his father in 2002.