


Listening Adventure of Contrasts



Sofia Gubaidulina
Johann Sebastian Bach

Ursina Maria Braun

An exciting listening adventure: *The Ten Preludes* by Sofia Gubaidulina from 1974 merge with the *Allemandes* from Johann Sebastian Bach's Cello Suites into a fascinating dialogue between past and present.



How do different kinds of music from distant eras interact with one another – and with the listener? This encounter between the past and modernity presented on this album proves to be an exciting listening adventure: The *Ten Preludes* by the Russian composer Sofia Gubaidulina (1931–2025) are interwoven with Allemandes from Johann Sebastian Bach's Cello Suites into a fascinating dialogue spanning 250 years.

Gubaidulina, one of the most important composers of the former Soviet Union, wrote her *Preludes* in 1974 as technical and artistic instructional pieces. With his *Six Suites*, Johann Sebastian Bach also created a compendium which opened up a new range of expression for the performers of his time and enabled the instrument, rarely called upon in a solo capacity up until then, to catch up with the virtuoso capabilities of the violin.

In presenting these works directly alongside each other, something remarkable takes place: the seemingly antithetical sound worlds merge into a subtle dialogue between old and new. We can hear the extent to which Gubaidulina was inspired by her role model Bach – and at the same time expanded the boundaries of musical expression into the present. „This combination sheds new light on both the well-known music of Bach and that of Gubaidulina”, says Ursina Maria Braun. She has chosen a modern cello for this experiment, while playing Bach's entire Fifth Suite on a historical instrument with gut strings – another testimony to how much the music world has developed and been enriched.

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