

REVIEWS SO FAR...

When a recording is released, it is customary to send it to critics, music reviewers and sometimes to hopefully well-connected friends and colleagues in hopes that they will take a liking to it, or recognize the inherent value in the project, or in some (rare) cases even grasp what the artist's vision is. The purpose is to help make the recording known to the world, and maybe even known to the "presenters," the people who determine who will be invited to perform at the appropriate venues. For us musicians, the review is sometimes that which connects our work to the world of lovers of music and an audience.

This process can take many months, especially when the project in question is not "commercial," but rather "serious," in a culture that is progressively less and less open to taking stock of and paying attention to serious work.

That said, below are a few excerpts from reviews, accompanied by the link to each review itself. I hope that this makes for eyebrow-lifting reading for you!

Steven Hancoff

www.stevenhancoff.com

ps: *From Tragedy to Transcendence: The Six Suites for Cello Solo* by J. Sebastian Bach has been featured on more than 100 radio stations all over North America. If you want to get a look, here is a media guide for you:

<http://www.crossovermedia.net/artists/steven-hancoff/projects/bach-the-six-suites-for-cello-solo-for-guitar/>

1. Janet Mawdesley – Blue-Wolf Reveiws

<http://bluewolf-reviews.com/music/from-tragedy-to-transcendence-the-six-suites-for-cello-solo-j-sebastian-bach-for-acoustic-guitar/>

... it is more than a work of love, it is a work of passion... a love affair coupled with a burning desire to share the magnificence of a Suite of music almost lost to mankind...

... the music which weaves and entrances, as fresh today as it was when first written back in 1720.... very special, rare and beautiful...

... take a listen to this majestic work...

Delicate, soft and reverent the music touches the inner person in the manner it was created to be able to do; to play and be listened to when life got a little or a lot tough, to remind yourself that all things do pass, and music like a slow flowing river moves over you to help heal the sorrow, lighten the soul and lift the burden of daily existence.

Hancoff must have often wondered if the ghost of Bach was not sitting on his shoulder inspiring him.

Tom Schulte

<https://www.goodreads.com/review/show/1419407750>

and

<http://readeroutsight.blogspot.com/>

You owe it to yourself to also enjoy deeply these guitar transcriptions sublimely delivered by Steven Hancoff ... The Hancoff soul, where the intelligent, poignant, and transcendent grace of these pieces has been internalized and artfully expressed, makes this the triumph of one man who reached through three centuries to telegraph to us Bach's soul.

Blair Jackson – Classical Guitar Magazine

<http://classicalguitarmagazine.com/steven-hancoffs-multimedia-bachstravaganza>

*(***This is the first time an acoustic, steel-string guitarist has ever appeared on the cover of CGM!!)*

What Hancoff has ultimately produced is an incredibly rich multimedia exploration of the *Cello Suites*, Bach's universe, and his influence through the centuries, expressed through the CDs and also a four-volume iBook that blends music, videos, and well over a thousand still images—like a Ken Burns documentary gone wild! — into a vivid and compelling tapestry of history, stories, ruminations, and fascinating tangents that grow like vines off the main Bach saga.

Chris Spector: Midwest Record

<http://www.midwestrecord.com/MWR1016.html>

Hancoff brings these classic Bach works home for the 21st century and probably beyond. Occupying a spot in the lineage from Segovia to Bream to Parkening to Isbin, Hancoff plays second to none and the music plays like a book you can't put down until you're done.

Mayra Calvani: The Examiner

<http://www.examiner.com/review/book-review-bach-casals-and-the-six-suites-for-cello-by-steven-hancoff>

Steven Hancoff's passion and reverence for Bach and his music resonate throughout and shine through the pages of these volumes...His transcriptions of the suites in acoustic guitar are serene, bitter-sweet at times, filled with emotional power and depth, always sublimely beautiful. *Bach, Casals and the Six Suites for 'Cello Solo* is a feast to the senses, a testament to the greatness of Bach and comes highly recommended from this reviewer.

Jeremy Pound: BBC Music-Mag

<http://www.scribd.com/doc/273195560/BBC-Music-September-2015-UK#scribd>

Guitarist Steven Hancoff has lavished a lot of love and attention on this project, packing it full of videos, pictures and text – as a result, each volume is vast, so leave a lot of time and free memory to download them. Once you've done so, the rewards are rich....His thoughts are always interesting, and his playing of the music itself is glorious. Four stars ****

Rozane Assaf: Huffington Post

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/roxane-assaf/not-into-bach-take-a-little-ride_b_7960130.html

Hancoff's fervor for the Bach suites echoes the cellist's devotion... strains of music dovetail with what is the largest collection of Bach-inspired visual art ever amassed... It is an antique subject elegantly rendered in an impossibly light 21st-century container.

Robert Silverstein: MW3 Music Review Magazine

<http://www.mwe3.com/reviews/StevenHancoff2015/>

Steven Hancoff has brought Bach's timeless music and sonic vision back to life in 2015 with new life and insight.

T. M. Souders: theseriousrader.org

<http://www.theseriousreader.org/tsr-home/archives/10-2015>

...a pleasure to listen to: serene, bitter-sweet at times, filled with emotional power and depth, always sublimely beautiful. *Bach, Casals and the Six Suites for 'Cello Solo* is a feast to the senses, a testament to the greatness of Bach and comes highly recommended from this reviewer.

Dominy Clements: music-web-international.com

http://www.musicweb-international.com/classrev/2016/Jan/Bach_cello_OUT960CD.htm

Hancoff in this case is to Bach on the guitar what Busoni was to Bach on the piano ... and yes indeed, the world could use more people like Steven Hancoff.

Bill Baker: WCNV Radio, New York:

Superb recording!

Scott Prebys: KCND, New York

...Masterful...

... and from a couple of old friends:

Dick Hyman:

Your Bach recordings are magnificent. Your playing is tremendous. I am so pleased and amazed. You are truly a great artist.

Jim Cullum: Jazz From Riverwalk

Magnificent. You are truly a great artist!

