

Ricercari & Ritrovati

The first composer in the history of music who gave a soloistic importance to the cello was Domenico Gabrielli, who hailed from Bologna, at the end of the seventeenth century.

His Researches for the cello are an explorative journey of the technical potentials and timbres of the cello. If it was Domenico Gabrielli who researched the cello, it was Ivan Fedele who rediscovered it.

His six compositions that are performed in the program are even called “rediscoveries” as they are in direct dialogue with some of Domenico Gabrielli’s researches, which had inspired Fedele.

The six rediscoveries constitute a suite called “French Suite VI,” which were dedicated by the composer to his great friend Christophe Desjardins, a violist in the Ensemble Intercontemporain.

Many composers in the history of music have wanted to give a great importance to cello solos. The greatest of them all being Johann Sebastian Bach and his very celebrated six suites for solo cello.

“On the 6th of November, Bach, who up until now was a concertmaster and court organist, was arrested in the hall of justice because of his stubbornness and for his persistence in seeking his own dismissal. On the 2nd of December, his dismissal was finally granted, and he was liberated from his arrest,” according to the municipal archive of Leipzig.

The duke of Weimar did not initially grant the dismissal of Johann Sebastian, and had him imprisoned for four weeks.

In the same year, the composer was recruited to come to Köthen by Prince Leopold, to serve as the choirmaster.

If in Weimar, Bach could only compose sacred music, from 1717 to 1723 in the Calvinist court of Köthen, he could dedicate himself to instrumental music and experienced his greatest compositional freedom. It was here that his suites for the cello were born.

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Domenico Gabrielli, ricercari

Johann Sebastian Bach, suite n. 2 in re minore BWV 1008

Ivan Fedele, Suite Francese VI

Prelude

Prelude BWV 1008

Ritrovati 1 Preludio,

Ricercare I, Domenico

Allemande

Allemande BWV 1008

Ritrovati 2 Ostinato, Ivan Fedele

Ricercare VII,

Courante

Courante BWV 1008

Ritrovati 3 Corrente I

Ricercare III

Sarabande

Sarabande BWV 1008

Ritrovati 4 Passacaglia

Ricercare 2

Minuet

Minuet 1&2 BWV 1008

Ritrovati 5 Interludio

Ricercare 5

Giga

Gigue BWV 1008

Ritrovati 6 Corrente II

Ricercare 4

Federico Toffano, violoncello