

Cedille Records

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News

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Trio Settecento Performs Epic Set of Italian Baroque Sonatas on New Cedille Album

Period-Instrument Ensemble Offers Rare Recording of Veracini's Complete 'Sonate Accademiche' For Violin and Continuo

Triple-CD Set Coincides with 18th Anniversary of Trio's First Release

Following its acclaimed albums of Italian, German, French, and English Baroque music, Chicago-based period-instrument ensemble Trio Settecento returns to the Italian repertoire for a rare recording of violinist-composer Francesco Maria Veracini's complete *Sonate Accademiche*, Op. 2, a thrilling cycle of twelve sonatas with a total playing time of more than three hours, spanning three CDs.

On *Veracini: Complete Sonate Accademiche*, the trio of violinist Rachel Barton Pine, 'cellist John Mark Rozendaal, and harpsichordist David Schrader, perform what *Grove Music Online* calls Veracini's "finest sonatas."

The three-disc set, priced as a double-disc, will be released May 12 on CD and as a digital download (Cedille Records CDR 90000 155).

In the liner notes, Rozendaal describes the cycle as "a work of uniquely varied inspiration and majestic scope" that represents "a zenith of the genre, on a scale of sheer length attempted never before and not soon after."

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The new Cedille Records album coincides with the 18th anniversary of the release of the project that launched the trio's recording career: a Cedille album of Handel's sonatas for violin and continuo, released in May 1997. That recording was also violinist Pine's Cedille label debut (Cedille Records 90000 032).

The all-Veracini album is Trio Settecento's first release since the Handel CD to focus on music of a single composer.

Virtuosity and Imagination

Veracini's Opus 2 sonatas "exemplify the greatest achievements of virtuosity and imagination in the High Baroque," violinist Pine writes in the CD booklet's introductory essay. "They have been an important part of Trio Settecento's repertoire since its inception."

As they prepared for the recording, Pine and Rozendaal, working from the original 1744 edition of the score, "began crafting a preliminary interpretation for each sonata," Pine writes. After the two string players coordinated their bowing and worked out "an initial scheme of affects and dynamics," harpsichordist Schrader joined the interpretive huddle to further refine ideas about each piece.

Pine writes, "An interesting aspect of Opus 2 is the frequent marking of 'tasto solo,' meaning that no harmonization (the right hand of the keyboard) is to be played with the bass line." For some of those quiet moments, they decided the harpsichord would rest and the cello alone would handle the continuo part.

Another point of special interest is Sonata No. 9, written with a distinctly Scottish flavor. "It felt perfectly natural to infuse the performance with authentic Scottish bowings and ornamentations," Pine writes. For insights, she and Rozendaal consulted with master Scottish fiddler John Turner and the faculty of the Jink and Diddle School of Scottish Fiddling, which specializes in 18th century repertoire and performance practice of Scotland.

Veracini travelled widely. His *Sonate Accademiche* displays a rich pan-European variety of influences, with tunes from locales as far-flung as Dalmatia, Poland, the Canary Islands via Spain, and rural France by way of London.

The recording concludes with *Canone: Ut relevet miserum*, a brief two-voice canon based on part of a short, clever Latin text about the labors of writing music.

Recording Team

Veracini: Complete Sonate Accademiche was produced by James Ginsburg and engineered by Bill Maylone at sessions in August 2013 and August 2014 in Nichols Concert Hall at the Music Institute of Chicago, Evanston, IL.

Trio Settecento

Formed in 1996 to record the complete violin sonatas of George Frideric Handel for Cedille Records, the performing ensemble of Rachel Barton Pine, John Mark Rozendaal, and David Schrader took the name Trio Settecento the next year. Playing antique instruments of rare beauty and expressive power, the trio has appeared at the Boston Early Music Festival, the Frick Collection, Millennium Park, Columbia University's Miller Theater, Dumbarton Oaks, and Houston Early Music, among other venues.

Veracini: Complete Sonate Accademiche is Trio Settecento's sixth Cedille Records project. In addition to the Handel sonatas CD, which predated the adoption of the ensemble's name, the trio's discography includes *An Italian Sojourn*, *A German Bouquet*, *A French Soirée*, and *An English Fancy* (available as individual CDs or together in the specially priced boxed set titled *Grand Tour*).

Cedille Records

Marking its 25th anniversary during the 2014–15 season, Grammy award-winning Cedille Records (pronounced say-DEE) has been dedicated to showcasing the most noteworthy classical artists in and from the Chicago area since its debut in November 1989.

The audiophile-oriented label releases every new album in multiple formats: a physical CD; a 96 kHz, 24-bit, studio-quality FLAC download; and a 320 Kbps MP3 download.

Cedille Records is distributed in the Western Hemisphere by Naxos of America and its distribution partners, by Select Music in the U.K., and by other independent distributors in the Naxos network in major international classical music markets.

An independent nonprofit enterprise, Cedille Records is the label of Cedille Chicago, NFP (formerly The Chicago Classical Recording Foundation). Headquarters are at 1205 W. Balmoral Ave., Chicago, IL 60640; call (773) 989-2515; e-mail: info@cedillerecords.org. Website: cedillerecords.org.

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Veracini: Complete Sonate Accademiche
(Cedille Records CDR 90000 155)

- Sonata No. 1 in D Major (18:06)**
- Sonata No. 2 in B-flat Major (16:38)**
- Sonata No. 3 in C Major (15:01)**
- Sonata No. 4 in F Major (14:14)**
- Sonata No. 5 in G Minor (14:21)**
- Sonata No. 6 in A Major (20:30)**
- Sonata No. 7 in D Minor (15:30)**
- Sonata No. 8 in E Minor (12:37)**
- Sonata No. 9 in A Major (13:04)**
- Sonata No. 10 in F Major (13:09)**
- Sonata No. 11 in E Minor (17:22)**
- Sonata No. 12 in D Minor (12:45)**
- Canone: Ut relevet miserum (2:53)**

Trio Settecento

Rachel Barton Pine, violin
John Mark Rozendaal, 'cello
David Schrader, harpsichord