

## Bach: Six Suites for Unaccompanied Cello, BWV 1007-1012

Josephine van Lier, cello

Vanlier2010-01 (3 h 43 min 52 s)

★★★★★☆

This disc comes with a twist: The first and fourth suite are performed on a cello with a modern setup, the third, on a carbon-fibre instrument, while the second suite is played on a baroque cello, and the sixth



on a five-string piccolo cello. The fifth suite is recorded three times, using the baroque, the contemporary, and the carbon-fibre instruments. This four-disc set comes with liner notes about the differences between the instruments, an interview with van Lier, even a graph showing an analysis of the harmonic spectrums of the instruments. All of this seems gimmicky, yet it is understandable when one considers the daunting task of trying to make a splash with yet another recording of the Suites. The verdict? The playing throughout is spacious and free, the preludes are imaginative, and the dances are idiomatic. What is interesting is that despite the intent to highlight the differences between the instruments, what comes across most is the stylistic consistency of the recording as a whole. This is not the recording you want as your reference for this music, but if you love the cello suites, this one is recommended.