

La Guitare Romantique

Many years ago, when I received a beautiful Biedermeier guitar as compensation for a modest concert fee, I could not begin to imagine what sounds were slumbering within this battered but likeable wreck. Shrouded in the mysterious aura of this eye-witness to several centuries as it hung on my wall, these sounds were to remain unuttered for a while – until, although I had previously always prioritized the modern guitar, my interest and curiosity were piqued. And so I finally had the guitar restored.

Once it had been put in a condition that could satisfy the demands of modern players, and had thereby become an instrument capable of far more than just the domestic music of Viennese salons, this 'gallant music-box' proved to be a jack of all trades. It was not just its sweetly singing, sensitive tone that appealed to me; its fast, delicate articulation, too, proved ideal for lending a special lightness, elegance and refinement to the Romantic and virtuosic music of composers such as Giuliani, Sor, Coste and Mertz. Although the works on this recording have been in my repertoire for a long time, thanks to this guitar it was as if I was discovering them afresh. I also became fascinated anew with the entire era, which – not without justification – is regarded as the time the modern guitar came into being.