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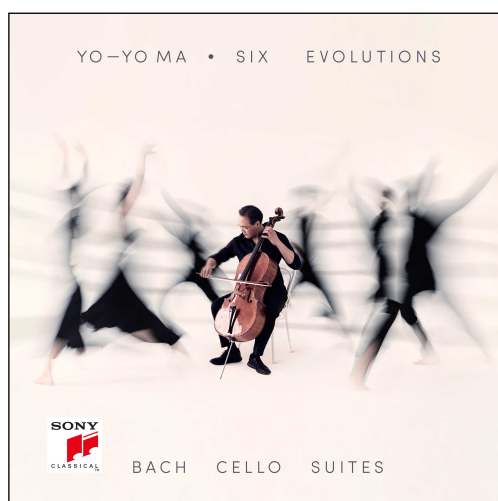
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YO-YO MA **SIX EVOLUTIONS - BACH: CELLO SUITES**

**Ma's Ultimate Recording of These Works
Available August 17, 2018**



New Album Signals the Beginning of a Two-Year Global Bach Journey

“Almost no one made a sound. Almost no one moved. When a large audience is listening intently, it creates an atmosphere that cannot be measured or recorded, only remembered. Here, it was as if music had stilled the world ... he was following his natural musical rhythms, to the point that it felt less like a performance than like an interior monologue ... [The audience] was under the spell of a solitary searcher in the dark.”

– Alex Ross, *The New Yorker*, describing Ma's 2017 performance of the Bach Cello Suites at the Hollywood Bowl

(June 22 – New York) **Yo-Yo Ma** will release ***Six Evolutions - Bach: Cello Suites*** (Sony Classical), his third and final recording of these works, on August 17, 2018. The album is available now for [preorder](#), including a 3-LP 180-gram vinyl set, and the *Bourrées* from Suite No. 3 can be heard now on all digital service providers.

“Bach's Cello Suites have been my constant musical companions,” Ma says of the music. “For almost six decades, they have given me sustenance, comfort, and joy during times of stress,

celebration, and loss. What power does this music possess that even today, after three hundred years, it continues to help us navigate through troubled times?"

Ma is more convinced than ever of the suites' ability to create shared meaning that extends far beyond the here and now. The suites' collective vision – at once divergent and coherent, empathic and objective – reminds us of all that connects us despite an increasingly discordant public conversation.

Bach and his Cello Suites entered Yo-Yo Ma's life when he was four, when he learned the first measure of the *Prélude* to Suite No. 1 under his father's instruction, and these works have been a through line in his life. His Grammy Award-winning first complete recording of the suites was made in his late twenties. His second, *Inspired by Bach*, was released in his early forties and recorded alongside a multi-genre, collaborative exploration of the works. Both previous recordings of the Cello Suites, also on Sony Classical, became landmarks in the history of classical discography, as well as milestones in Ma's musical life. *Six Evolutions* begins a new chapter in the cellist's 58-year relationship with this music.

"Now that I'm in my sixties," Ma says, "I realize that my sense of time has changed, both in life and in music, at once expanded and compressed. Music, like all of culture, helps us to understand our environment, each other, and ourselves. Culture helps us to imagine a better future. Culture helps turn 'them' into 'us.' And these things have never been more important."

The August release of *Six Evolutions* also signals the beginning of a two-year, six-continent journey in which Yo-Yo Ma will devote himself to Bach's music, playing all six Cello Suites in single sittings in familiar and unlikely locations.

Ma wants to share Bach's music with an exceptionally large and diverse audience, in celebration of culture's role in society. Accompanying each performance will be events that seek to put culture in action by bringing people and organizations together to address pressing social issues. Ma believes that at a time of rapid change, culture must play a central role in shaping our future.

Six Evolutions will not only offer an essential encapsulation of what this music means now to one of our most celebrated artists. It is also an invitation to think differently about the role of culture in society.

"I share this music, which has helped shape the evolution of my life, with the hope that it might spark a conversation about how culture can be a source of the solutions we need," Ma says. "It is one more experiment, this time a search for answers to the question: What we can do together, that we cannot do alone? I invite you to join me on this adventure."

Sony Music Masterworks comprises *Masterworks*, *Sony Classical*, *OKeh*, *Portrait and Masterworks* *Broadway* imprints. For email updates and information please visit www.sonymusicmasterworks.com/

Yo-Yo Ma: *Six Evolutions* - *Bach: Cello Suites*

Release Date: August 17, 2018

Tracklist:

Unaccompanied Cello Suite No. 1 in G Major, BWV 1007

- I. Prélude
- II. Allemande
- III. Courante
- IV. Sarabande

- V. Menuets I & II
- VI. Gigue

Unaccompanied Cello Suite No. 2 in D Minor, BWV 1008

- I. Prélude
- II. Allemande
- III. Courante
- IV. Sarabande
- V. Menuets I & II
- VI. Gigue

Unaccompanied Cello Suite No. 3 in C Major, BWV 1009

- I. Prélude
- II. Allemande
- III. Courante
- IV. Sarabande
- V. Bourrées I & II
- VI. Gigue

Unaccompanied Cello Suite No. 4 in E-Flat Major, BWV 1010

- I. Prélude
- II. Allemande
- III. Courante
- IV. Sarabande
- V. Bourrées I & II
- VI. Gigue

Unaccompanied Cello Suite No. 5 in C Minor, BWV 1011

- I. Prélude
- II. Allemande
- III. Courante
- IV. Sarabande
- V. Gavottes I & II
- VI. Gigue

Unaccompanied Cello Suite No. 6 in D Major, BWV 1012

- I. Prélude
- II. Allemande
- III. Courante
- IV. Sarabande
- V. Gavottes I & II
- VI. Gigue

BACH: Complete Cello Suites 2018 Performance Dates:

(For more information on these dates and others – click [here](#))

- Aug. 1 Red Rocks Amphitheater – Denver, CO
- Aug. 12 Blossom Music Festival – Cuyahoga Falls, OH
- Sep. 2 Nikolaikirche – Leipzig, Germany
- Sep. 30 Greek Theatre at UC Berkeley – Berkeley, CA
- Nov. 29 Washington National Cathedral – Washington, DC
- Dec. 7 Montreal Bach Festival – Montreal, Canada

YO-YO MA

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