



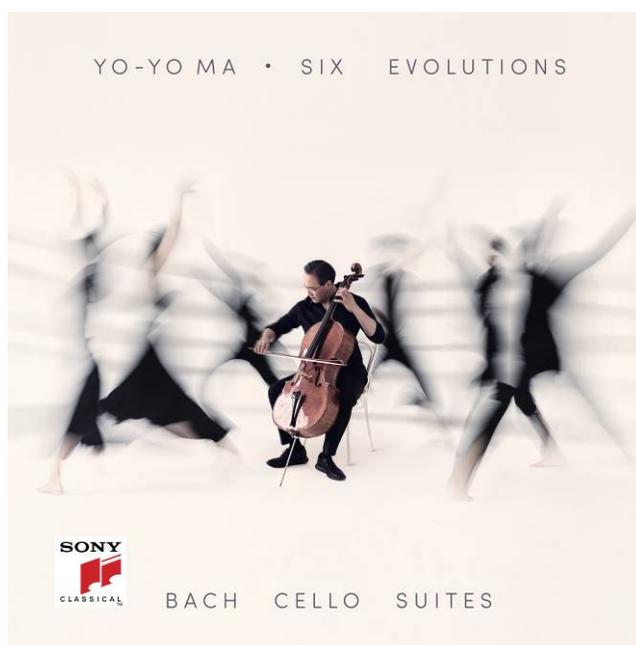
YO-YO MA
SIX EVOLUTIONS – BACH: CELLO SUITES
MA'S THIRD AND FINAL RECORDING OF THE SUITES
[AVAILABLE EVERYWHERE NOW](#)

NEW ALBUM LAUNCHES TWO-YEAR GLOBAL BACH JOURNEY

THE BACH PROJECT WILL BRING MA TO 6 CONTINENTS
FOR 36 CONCERTS & 36 DAYS OF ACTION

**Alongside each concert a day of performance, conversation
and action will ask how culture makes our communities strong**

"I believe that culture – the way we express ourselves and understand each other – is an essential part of building a strong society. My hope is that together we can use Bach's music to start a bigger conversation about the #cultureofus." –Yo-Yo Ma



NEW YORK, NY (August 17, 2018) – YO-YO MA releases *Six Evolutions – Bach: Cello Suites* today. The new album from Sony Classical marks Ma's third and final recording of the works and celebrates his nearly six-decade-long relationship with the music. *Six Evolutions – Bach: Cello Suites* is available to [stream and download now](#) on all digital service providers and to [purchase on CD in addition to a 3-LP 180-gram vinyl set.](#)

As Ma's "constant musical companions" for almost 60 years, Bach's Cello Suites first entered the cellist's life when he was four and learned the first measure of the *Prélude* to Suite No. 1 under his father's instruction. 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 classical discography, as well as milestones in Ma's musical life. Since then these works have been a through line in his life, guiding him through times of happiness as well as hardship, prompting Ma to ask, "What power does this music possess that even today, after three hundred years, it continues to help us navigate through troubled times?"

The answer, he believes, is 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. *Six Evolutions* offers not only 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. It is in this spirit that Ma embarks on a two-year, [six-continent journey](#), playing all six cello suites in single sittings in locations that provide a window on our cultural heritage, our current creativity and on the issues of peace and understanding shaping our future.

This project takes Ma to 36 locations across six continents in celebration of culture's role in society. Alongside each concert a day of performance, conversation and action brings people and organizations together to explore how culture can help to address pressing social issues. Ma believes that at a time of rapid change, culture must play a central role in shaping our future.

"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. "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. 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."

For more information about the project and all upcoming concerts and events, please visit bach.yo-yoma.com/. Follow along on Yo-Yo's Bach Journey with #cultureinaction.

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

THE BACH PROJECT – COMPLETE CELLO SUITES 2018 PERFORMANCES

Sun, Sept 2	Leipzig, Germany	Nikolaikirche
Sun, Sept 30	Berkeley, CA	Greek Theatre at UC Berkeley
Thu, Nov 29	Washington, DC	Washington National Cathedral
Fri, Dec 7	Montreal, QC	Montreal Bach Festival

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