

# Joshua Smith



## REVIEWS Reviews of flute-related recordings, books, and other items of interest

### Johann Sebastian Bach Flute Sonatas with Continuo

By Carla Rees

Fall 2011

***“Smith does not fail to deliver here, creating a performance that is both intimate and dazzling.”***

This enjoyable CD features a selection of Bach's flute sonatas and the Trio Sonata from his *Musical Offering* performed by Joshua Smith, Jory Vinikour (harpsichord), Ann Marie Morgan (baroque cello), and Allison Guest Edberg (baroque violin). The E Minor Sonata is played with a sense of lightness and considered phrasing. Overall, the balance tends toward the accompanying instruments, especially Smith's beautiful pianissimo playing in the slow movement. The lively fast movements are spirited and well controlled, with a nice sense of sparkle throughout. The embellishments in the harpsichord add a lovely additional interest in the accompaniment and are well judged with a good sense of style.

The C Major Sonata is similarly well phrased, with a sense of gentle lyricism in the flute line of the

opening. The fast movements are light and nimble, and the minuets capture the dance style convincingly. The opening of the Trio Sonata in C Minor has a mournful mood, and I particularly enjoyed the sense of dialogue between Smith and violinist Edberg. The harpsichord and cello form a supportive and beautifully phrased continuo. The second movement possesses a sense of energy, while the final two movements are played with care and delicacy. The CD ends with the E Major Sonata, which features distinctive phrasing in the slow movements and agile finger work in the allegros. Smith does not fail to deliver here, creating a performance that is both intimate and dazzling.

