



J.S. Bach: *Flute sonatas with continuo*. Joshua Smith, flute; Jory Vinikour, harpsichord; Ann Marie Morgan, cello; Allison Guest Edberg, violin. Delos DE 3408.

I was most impressed with Joshua Smith and Jory Vinikour's first CD of Bach sonatas with obbligato harpsichord, released last year. This second CD, containing the sonatas with continuo accompaniment plus the triosonata from *The Musical Offering*, is another example of sensitive, thoughtful and musicianly playing. Joshua Smith produces a gorgeous sound on a wooden Boehm flute by Rudall Carte, and he and his colleagues correctly perform these works as chamber music rather than as flute solos with accompaniment. There is no preciousness about these performances: the players treat these works as music to be enjoyed, not revered. Their use of vibrato is subtle, with life in the sound rather than an obvious wobble. The cellist Ann Marie Morgan and the harpsichordist Jory Vinikour provide solid support, and Allison Guest Edberg, using a baroque violin, is a stylish player. This is as fine a recording of Bach's works for flute as I have heard. Robert Bigio