

World Premiere Recordings



These two new (2011) CD recordings make available fourteen largely unknown works by King Frederick II “the Great” of Prussia (1712–86) and his court flutist and flute teacher Johann Joachim Quantz (1697–1773). Quantz was the leading flutist-composer of the eighteenth century; the king, who ruled from 1740 until his death, was a major historical figure whose many talents included professional-quality abilities as a flutist and composer.

The seven works by Quantz, all previously unpublished, include six sonatas for flute and basso continuo (cello and harpsichord) and one trio sonata performed as a duo for flute and keyboard. Five of the seven flute sonatas by Frederick are also unpublished. All works are performed in new editions prepared from manuscripts in the former royal music collection of the king himself.

King Frederick's sonatas were recorded in the Music Room of his historic palace of Sanssouci in Potsdam (Germany). This was the site of the king's famous evening concerts, depicted in a famous painting by the 19th-century artist Adolph Menzel (shown on the CD cover). The flute and fortepiano used in the recording are precise reconstructions of the king's instruments, still preserved in the Music Room.

The performers, all on period instruments, are Mary Oleskiewicz, flute; Stephanie Vial and Balázs Máté, cello; and David Schulenberg, harpsichord and fortepiano. Both CDs are available from the CD publisher Hungaroton ([click here for Quantz](#) and [click here for Frederick](#)) and from the U.S. distributor Qualiton ([click here for Quantz](#); a link for the Frederick CD will be available soon).

For our previously issued recordings of other flute sonatas by Quantz, as well as his flute quartets, please return to [our main page](#).