

AN SYLVIVS



# AN SYLVIUS

Marc Sinan plays suites from the works of Sylvius Leopold Weiss,  
Johann Sebastian Bach and his own free improvisations



Sylvius Leopold Weiss was the greatest and most influential lutenist of his era. He composed over 600 pieces and was one of the highest paid musicians at the court of King August the Great in Dresden. He was also regarded as an improviser extraordinaire. Many of his suites were written without a first movement, as Weiss preferred to make them up off-the-cuff. In letter and verse, his contemporaries wrote in glowing terms of the audacious abandonment and gentleness of his playing.

There is also evidence of a close acquaintanceship with Johann Sebastian Bach, who is thought to have composed many – if not all – of his lute pieces for Weiss. The music critic, Johann Friedrich Reichardt, reported how Weiss and Bach competed to outdo each another with their improvisations:

"Anyone who is aware of how difficult it is to play harmonic modulations and good counterpoints on the lute cannot but be astounded when eyewitnesses report that Weiss, the great Dresden lutenist, competed in playing fantasias and fugues with Sebastian Bach, who was also an accomplished harpsichordist and organist."

In "An Silvius", Sinan expressly tries to avoid giving an historical reconstruction of the Weissian way of playing. Instead, he adopts an hermeneutic approach to deliver a spirited rendition of baroque music – music that develops an immediate force and sensuality thanks to his contemporary free improvisations. Inspired by the works of Weiss, Bach and their contemporaries – and drawing on his own free improvisations – Sinan creates suites, the constellation of which always varies.



The guitarist Marc Sinan, son of a Turkish-Armenian mother and a German father, has over 15 years of experience on the international concert stage.

In addition to solo concerts and chamber music projects with renowned partners such as Eliot Fisk, Jörg Widmann, Julia Hülsmann, the Turkish percussionist Burhan Öcal and the Rodin Quartet, Marc Sinan has established quite a reputation for himself as a soloist with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, the Georgian Chamber Orchestra and others. His European concert tours have seen him take to the stage in Germany, Austria, Switzerland, France, Turkey and Spain, followed by performances in both North and South America. As the assistant to Franz Halasz at the Augsburg School of Music, he taught one of Europe's most successful guitar classes up until 2003.

In 1998 the composer Jörg Widmann dedicated to him the commissioned work "Ent-Schwebung" for guitar and tape, which Sinan recorded along with pieces by Robert Beaser and Toru Takemitsu with support from the Siemens Company. Since Sinan's tour "From Istanbul to Buenos Aires" in 2002 with the percussionist Burhan Öcal, he has collaborated with musicians from various genres. For his "Livin' Swing" project – which emerged from his work with the pianist and arranger Marc Schmolling – Sinan appeared as a soloist with Big Band backing.

February 2009 saw the release of his CD FASIL under the ECM label. His project "Last night as I dreamt, the mountains wept in despair" – a musical installation featuring 22 musicians from the Dresdner Sinfoniker and traditional Turkish musicians, as well as video documentation – will premiere at the Festspielhaus Hellerau in Dresden in October 2010.

# Contact

YMUSIC / Marc Sinan Company  
Choriner Str. 56  
10435 Berlin

Josephine Heide  
jh@ymusic.de  
Fon +49 (0) 30 98 60 83 89 - 19

[www.marcsinan.com](http://www.marcsinan.com)

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Diehl