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# BACH: ENGLISH SUITES, VOL. 2

## Fernando Valenti, Harpsichord

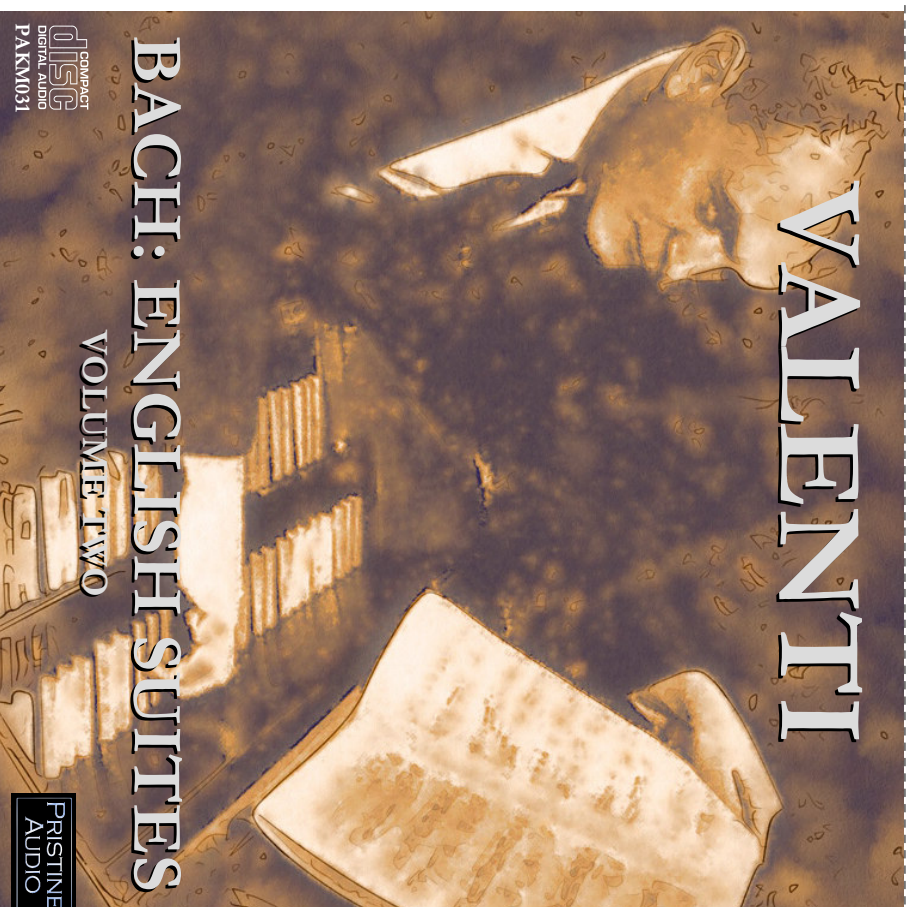
PRISTINE  
AUDIO

1: SUITE No. 4 IN F MAJOR, BWV 809: I. PRELUDE	5:18
2: SUITE No. 4 IN F MAJOR, BWV 809: II. ALLEMANDE	3:47
3: SUITE No. 4 IN F MAJOR, BWV 809: III. COURANTE	1:39
4: SUITE No. 4 IN F MAJOR, BWV 809: IV. SARABANDE	2:55
5: SUITE No. 4 IN F MAJOR, BWV 809: V. MENUETT I - II	2:10
6: SUITE No. 4 IN F MAJOR, BWV 809: VI. GIGUE	3:21
7: SUITE No. 5 IN E MINOR, BWV 810: I. PRELUDE	4:46
8: SUITE No. 5 IN E MINOR, BWV 810: II. ALLEMANDE	3:37
9: SUITE No. 5 IN E MINOR, BWV 810: III. COURANTE	2:15
10: SUITE No. 5 IN E MINOR, BWV 810: IV. SARABANDE	3:09
11: SUITE No. 5 IN E MINOR, BWV 810: V. PASSEPED I & RONDEAU - PASSEPED II	3:24
12: SUITE No. 5 IN E MINOR, BWV 810: VI GIGUE	1:34
13: SUITE No. 6 IN D MINOR, BWV 811: I. PRELUDE	8:18
14: SUITE No. 6 IN D MINOR, BWV 811: II. ALLEMANDE	2:01
15: SUITE No. 6 IN D MINOR, BWV 811: III. COURANTE	4:04
16: SUITE No. 6 IN D MINOR, BWV 811: IV. SARABANDE & DOUBLE	3:55
17: SUITE No. 6 IN D MINOR, BWV 811: V. GAVOTTE I - II	2:47
18: SUITE No. 6 IN D MINOR, BWV 811: VI. GIGUE	1:46

Originally released in 1953 on Westminster LP WAL 306  
Transfer and digital remastering by Peter Harrison at *dk&2dk*, October 2007

Total duration: 60:48 These transfers are ©2007 Pristine Audio.

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# BACH: ENGLISH SUITES, VOL. 2

## Fernando Valenti, Harpsichord

### J.S. Bach - English Suites (BWV 806-811)

Bach's six *English Suites*, of which this volume contains the last three, present something of a mystery in their composition. It is supposed that he wrote them prior to taking up his position in Leipzig, and academic research is increasingly tracing their origin to Bach's years at Weimar (1708-1714) when he was a young man.

The music readily mixes French and Italian musical elements and styles with Bach's counterpoint. Nobody knows for sure why these are called English Suites, but the musical content has no relation to anything English.

The harpsichord recordings of Fernando Valenti are regarded by many as some of the finest ever made. It is a mystery as to why these remarkable recordings have been unobtainable for so long, and we are grateful to Peter Harrison for his fine remastering of these recordings from original 1950s vinyl.

### Fernando Valenti

The noted American harpsichordist and teacher, Fernando Valenti (1926-1990), studied piano with José Iturbi. Then he attended Yale University, where he took instruction in harpsichord with Ralph Kirkpatrick.

Fernando Valenti made his New York recital debut in 1950. His performances of the music of Domenico Scarlatti were highly praised. He also played Händel, Bach, and modern composers as Elliott Carter, Schoenberg and George Gershwin. In 1978 he played one hundred Scarlatti sonatas on five consecutive evenings at Carnegie Recital Hall in New York. He was called by Time and by the New York Times, in varying formulations, the finest harpsichordist in the world.

In 1951 Fernando Valenti was appointed professor of harpsichord at the Juilliard School of Music in New York. He also taught at various other academic institutions.

Fernando Valenti recorded 330 Scarlatti sonatas, much of Bach, including the Goldberg Variations (BWV 988), and published the books *The Harpsichord: A Dialogue for Beginners* (1982) and *A Performer's Guide to the Keyboard Partitas of J.S. Bach* (1990).