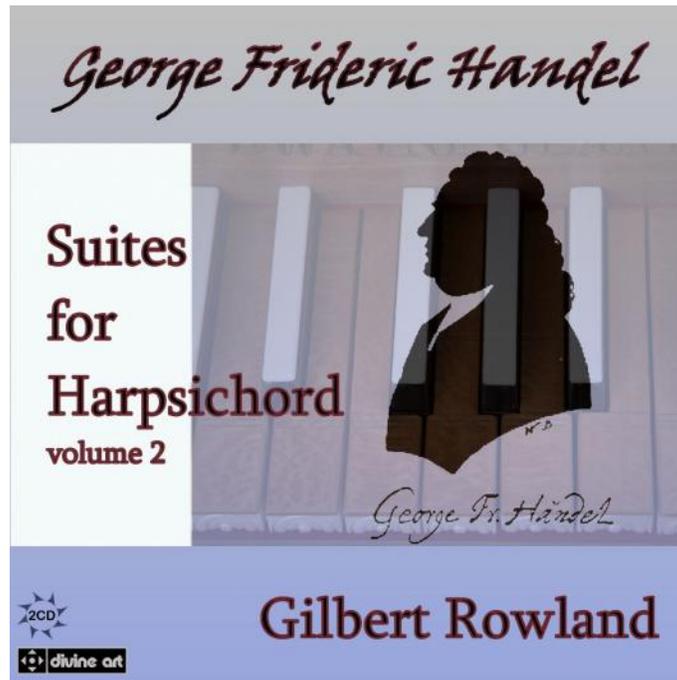




## New Release - Press Information



**ARTIST(S):** Gilbert Rowland  
**COMPOSER(S):** Handel  
**TITLE:** Suites for Harpsichord Volume 2  
**CATALOGUE NUMBER:** DDA21220 [0809730122026]  
**RELEASE DATE:** 8<sup>th</sup> April 2013  
**PRICE POINT:** 2CD Slimline Box/ UK Dealer Price £10.20

### Track Listing:

**CD1:** Suite in G minor HWV 432; Suite in D minor HWV 437; Suite in F major HWV 427; Suite in F sharp minor HWV 431; Suite in B flat major HWV 434; **CD2:** Suite in G major HWV 450; Suite in C minor HWV 444; Suite in F minor HWV 433; Suite in D minor HWV 436; Chaconne in G major HWV 435  
Total Playing Time: 134.20



### Repertoire/Product Information:

#### THE EDITION

Handel's solo keyboard music has for too long been overshadowed by his operas, oratorios, and orchestral music. This comparative neglect seems unjust in view of the considerably large quantity of keyboard music which exists amongst his massive output.

There are about 25 suites as well as numerous other single pieces including Fugues, Chaconnes, Fantasias, Preludes and individual dance movements. Amongst the suites there were two collections which were published in Handel's lifetime. The "Eight Great Suites" first appeared in print in 1720 followed by a further six in 1733, often referred to as "The Second Collection". There are also a number of "miscellaneous" suites. About ten of the suites, including some from the 1733 publication, were probably composed before he left Germany for Italy in 1707. The rest were probably composed after he settled in England in 1712, and two of them date from as late as 1739. Many of these suites are notable for their variety and originality of structure.

Handel was one of the first composers to free the keyboard suite from the formal constraints of Allemande, Courante, Sarabande, Gigue frequently used by German composers of the seventeenth and early eighteenth century, such as Froberger. Apart from dance movements, Handel made use of other types of movements such as preludes, fugues, chaconnes and sets of variations in his suites, and one of them (HWV 427 in F major) contains no dance movements at all.

### Artist Information:

**Gilbert Rowland** first studied the harpsichord with Millicent Silver. Whilst still a student at the Royal College of Music, he made his debut at Fenton House 1970 and first appeared at the Wigmore Hall in 1973.

His mentors have included Kenneth Gilbert and Fernando Valenti. Recitals at the Wigmore Hall and Purcell Room, appearances at major festivals in this country and abroad, together with broadcasts for Capital Radio and Radio 3 have helped to establish his reputation as one of Britain's leading harpsichordists.

His numerous records of works by Scarlatti, Soler, Rameau and Fischer have received considerable acclaim from the national press. The recording of the 13-CD set of Soler sonatas with Naxos was completed in 2006. He also recorded a CD of Sonatas by Albero for London Independent Records, which was released in 2009. This is his second recording for Divine Art.

A sample of critical opinion of Volume 1 (DDA21219):

*"The standard of playing is very high indeed, with some crisp articulation, appropriately added ornamentation in the repeats and a subtly convincing application of inégalité ... this is a most enjoyable recording."* – John Collins (The Consort)

*"The instrument...has a lovely upper manual, with a sweet, nasal twang. Rowland's Soler was robust and unapologetically virtuoso. His Handel is similarly scaled and brightly rendered. Quite florid ornamentation.. more Rococo than improvisatory."* – Phillip Kennicott (Gramophone)



*"I found my enjoyment of [Rowland's] playing for some reason increased as the set progressed. The superb fugal Allegro [of HWV 429] played with a masterly grasp of contrapuntal complexities... The [HWV 430] final Air and Variations are not only played with virtuosic assurance but also introduce a nice suggestion of humour. Always honest, musical performances that are likely to provide much pleasure." – Brian Robins (Harpichord and Fortepiano)*

*"Performances which are delivered with great relish ... considerable verve and vitality. His clear-sighted and purposeful delivery maintain a strong feeling of cohesion." – Marc Rochester (International Record Review)*

**Additional Details & Marketing:**

The CD will be fully serviced to all UK classical music press and radio. Advertising will include major classical music magazines and publications.

For more details, and to request a review sample, please contact John Cronin at Music & Media Consulting Limited.