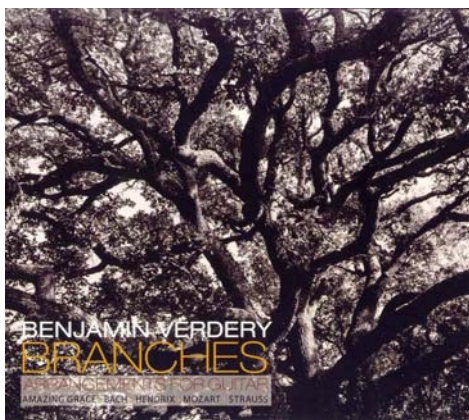


## BRANCHES

Benjamin Verdery

Bach, Mozart, Strauss, Hendrix  
*Mushkatweek*



What do JS Bach, Johann Strauss, WA Mozart, and Jimi Hendrix have in common? Jean-Sebastien and Johann were not guitarists, so in this case, the common link is the arranger.

Beyond the guitar playing, literally! it is exceptional and even rare to find an artist who can successfully record onto one recording so many diverse styles, and each work brilliantly arranged.

The most impressive is *Adagio K540* by Mozart. With just a quick perusal of the original score, one quickly discovers the brilliance and extraordinary work accomplished by Verdery.

Equally impressive is the *Blue Danube* by Strauss; the subtleties of each segment of the work are perfectly adapted to the guitar, including trills.

Finally, what seemed most obvious at the beginning....able to perform Hendrix on a non electric guitar..... (not to mention the remarkable performance technique) makes one hunger for more. The sonority of the electric guitar is seemingly more distant from the classical guitar sound than from the violin and cello.

The phrasing and breathing of Mozart's *Adagio* inspires one to the point of wanting to go play the original on the piano.

The interpretation of Bach's *Chaconne* is remarkable; the clarity of sonorities heard enables the listener to understand the various conversations occurring throughout the piece. And most of all, the intelligent fingering allows the listener to hear rapid passages performed smoothly (as intended in the original score composed for violin), rather than the more 'detached' sound one often hears on the guitar.

You will also find yourself savoring the Strauss, so Viennese in its phrasing that one could imagine him or herself in a café near Graben.

A must hear! Indulge yourself in this recording.

François Nicolas