

## **Early Music America : Fall 2001**

**With a plethora of available recordings of J. S. Bach's (1685-1750) Goldberg Variations, some of near legendary status, one approaches yet another addition to the discography of this masterwork with trepidation. In few other instances does the weight of a recorded legacy make the challenge of offering a fresh, individual voice (and of overcoming the danger of being deemed inconsequential) so daunting. All the more reason then to admire Jory Vinikour's magisterial new account, which convincingly dispels the listener's fears that this is "just another" version.**

**The pleasures of Vinikour's performance begin with his superb technical command of the harpsichord, which produces a rich, resonant, and pliable tone capable of adapting to the enormously diverse characters of the variations. The astonishing inventiveness with which Bach investigates the possibilities of a quite ordinary bassline is beautifully complimented by Vinikour's flexible and sympathetic playing. All repeats are taken, which contributes to the quality of each variation as a thorough exploration of a distinctive, ineffable mood. The effect of this approach is most striking in the Chromatic variation 25, which, at over 10 minutes in length, is not a second too long and achieves an otherworldly, cosmic character. By turns ruminative, lyrical, brilliant, and regal, this new CD warrants the following recommendation : even if you already own several outstanding recordings of the Goldberg Variations, do not fail to check out this one.**