

# AVE MARIA

Baroque  
Recital

Bach  
Weiss  
Purcell  
Telemann

Raphaella Smits

Eight-string guitar



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## Baroque Recital

Raphaella Smits, 8-string guitar

### 1. Prelude (BWV 846), Ave Maria (Méditation)

Johann Sebastian BACH (1685-1750) /  
Charles Gounod (1818-1893)

### 2. Ciaccona, Suite no.10 (SW14)

Silvius Leopold WEISS (1687-1750)

### 3. Prelude

Henry PURCELL (1659-1695)  
Suite no.2 (Z 661)

### 4. Almand

### 5. Corant

### 6. Saraband

### 7. Siciliana-Vivace-Allegro

Georg Philipp TELEMANN (1681-1767)  
Fantasie no.9 (TWV 40:22)

### 8. Fantasie no.9

Silvius Leopold WEISS (1687-1750)

### 9. Ciaccona, Partita Secunda (BWV 1004)

Johann Sebastian BACH (1685-1750)



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## About Raphaella Smits

Raphaella Smits is a 'Grande Musicienne' who, with her performances and her many recordings, has received admiration worldwide since 1980. Again and again she brings a surprisingly versatile repertoire and daring programs on her eight-string guitar.

Raphaella combines virtuosity and sensitivity. She has presence, and communicates with her audiences like no other. She is considered one of the world's premier performers of the 8-string guitar.

*"Maestro Smits, you make the composers' thoughts clear and a pleasure to listen to!"*

— Claudio Ambrosini, composer

*"A painter paints his pictures on canvas. Musicians paint their pictures on silence."*

— Leopold Stokowski @ Carnegie Hall, 1967

“This recording of Baroque music was quite a challenge: originally written for violin, lute or keyboard, all these pieces are my own 8-string guitar adaptations. To transcribe to an instrument that didn’t even exist in that period, I had to go to the essence, to the very soul of the music. I had to comprehend fully the language of the Baroque composers, to rediscover their sound, the structure and the meaning of their works, all on a completely different setting. I had to stay as close as possible to what was written originally and then use all capacities of my eight-string guitar to create my own versions.

My guideline: It’s all about the music and the rhetoric.

During my research I came across some wonderful settings, transcriptions by Francisco Tárrega (Ave Maria, Bach-Gounod), Kazo Kanatani (Purcell) and Ruggero Chiesa (Weiss). They all were an inspiration to me.

The cooperation with Javier Salvador as the engineer of the recording studio was an added value: he is definitely part of the result you hear. He managed to give me all the space a musician needs to be creative.”

— Raphaella Smits

# Colofon

## Instrument

John Gilbert #46 (1980)  
(2018, maintenance and good care by Geert Vermeiren).

## Recorded at

Rockaway Studios, Castellón de la Plana, Spain.  
September 2018.

## Producer and engineer

Javier Salvador Martin, JSM Guitar Records.

## Cover photo

Detail of Pieta, 17th century polychromed wood carving.

## Raphaella Smits

SAVAREZ & SBM sponsored artist.

## Editions

- Johann Sebastian Bach:  
Sei Solo a Violino senza Basso accompagnato,  
BWV 1001-1006, Bärenreiter-Verlag 1988.
- Silvius Leopold Weiss: Intavolatura di liuto, Ruggero Chiesa.
- Georg Philipp Telemann: Zwölf Fantasien für Violine ohne Bass,  
1735, TWV 40:14-40:25, Bärenreiter-Verlag 2015.
- Henry Purcell: Keyboard Works, edited by William Barclay Quire,  
Dover Publications, Inc 2015.