The Art of Fugue by pianist Albert Cano Smit



Original article certifying Radio Classique Trophee award can be found here

By Jérémie Bigorie

Published on 03/24/2025 at 09:00

Bach's musical testament through a subtle balance between unity and variety.

The two fugues that open and close the *Musical Offering* are treated in opposite ways: the first, in three voices, is conceived as a free improvisation; the last, in six voices, through its

proportions and depth of thought, is considered by the musicologist and Bach biographer Luc-André Marcel as *"one of the most learned and most sumptuous fugues in the world."*

A polyglot mastering five languages, Albert Cano Smit was born in Geneva to a Dutch mother and a Spanish father. At the age of 9, he left his home to join the Escolania de Montserrat, where the hours of daily practice profoundly marked his musical development.

The sound recording does justice to Albert Cano Smit's interpretation

He recently obtained an Artist Diploma and a Master's degree with Robert McDonald at the Juilliard School, where he was awarded the Rubinstein Prize for Piano in 2020. He also holds a Bachelor's in Piano Performance from the Colburn School with Ory Shihor and studied at the Chetham's School of Music with Marta Karbownicka and Graham Caskie. He is a former student of the Verbier Festival Academy and the Ravinia Steans Institute. He currently resides in New York.

He confides, regarding his first album with Aparté: *"Despite its bewildering titles, referencing the contrapuntal nature of each movement (two or more melodic lines interacting), and despite certain theories suggesting that the work was conceived as a piece for theoretical study, I am convinced that this is a piece that must and was intended to be performed and brought to life. Each movement possesses a distinct character, reminding us that counterpoint can also mean 'to emphasize by contrast.' I remember hearing the opening notes of the piece for the first time and being captivated by the impression that an entire universe was slowly being revealed through the work. [...] This album is my modest attempt to convey this to every music lover. I am grateful to them as well as to all those who accompany me on this journey of discovery."*

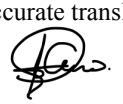
To achieve this, Albert Cano Smit has interspersed the canons between the fugues, creating a subtle balance between variety and unity. The sound recording by the Aparté label perfectly does justice to his luminous interpretation of Bach's masterpiece.

Jérémie Bigorie

Jean-Sébastien Bach : L'Art de la fugue. Albert Cano Smit, piano (Aparté)

State of NEW YORK

I hereby certify that I am fluent in the French and English languages and that the above is a true and accurate translation.



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Dated: July 19th, 2025