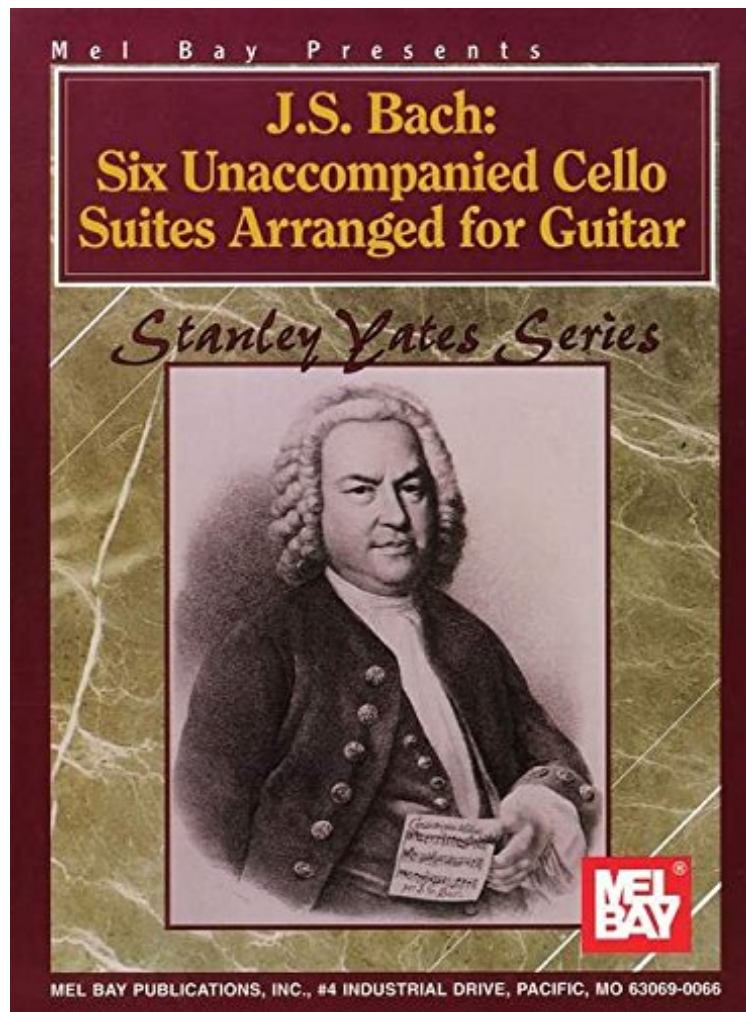


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## Mel Bay Presents J.S. Bach: Six Unaccompanied Cello Suites Arranged for Guitar (Stanley Yates Series)

*Johann Sebastian Bach, Stanley Yates*  
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**Johann Sebastian Bach, Stanley Yates : Mel Bay Presents J.S. Bach: Six Unaccompanied Cello Suites Arranged for Guitar (Stanley Yates Series)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Mel Bay Presents J.S. Bach: Six Unaccompanied Cello Suites Arranged for Guitar (Stanley Yates Series):

7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Required ReadingBy FDJI think this edition of the Bach's cello suites arranged for the guitar is an extremely valuable resource for classical guitar students and performers. It includes a written guide (with bibliography) to arranging, interpreting and performing Bach's music on guitar that is

informative, non dogmatic, and clearly and intelligently written. Also in this edition are comparison scores of the original cello music and the guitar arrangement. Even though any serious student of Bach's music probably already has the original cello suites, this feature that Stanley Yates has included facilitates measure by measure comparisons and is a welcome addition. Regarding the arrangements themselves, Yates makes some unconventional choices that might surprise a guitarist who is already playing these pieces in other keys. I have played the first suite (in G Major) for many years in D Major, the preferred choice of most guitarists. I have to say it was a bit awkward bringing myself to read through the music in the C Major that Yates has chosen. Once I got over my resistance (created largely by force of habit) I was quickly convinced by the resonance of this key as well as how naturally the music fell under the fingers. I find the key choices as well as the detailed fingerings make all the music in this edition relatively easy to play, at least for my hands. I think Bach's music provides enough challenges without having to deal with difficult or uncomfortable fingerings and it is really amazing how beautifully and easily the music flows in this edition. I think that whether or not the guitarist decides to use these arrangements or even if one is working on their own transcriptions that this book is certainly an invaluable resource that should not be ignored. We are fortunate as well since, unlike so many others who have published arrangements of Bach transcriptions, Stanley Yates has recorded a CD of three of the six unaccompanied suites. It is not only a great reference for those learning this music but also a sublime listening experience! 4 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Perfect--a really great arrangement of each suite. By roan For someone who is not a classical guitarist but does play seriously, this is great. No tab, but fingerings are given. Several passages (eg the end of prelude to suite I) are quite different than the cello part. For suite two the ending of the prelude is really nice. There's a lot of music here and it is put together clearly. The front matter/back matter talk briefly about Bach (could be more...) and then about the music and arranging it for guitar. interesting stuff. Overall, exactly what I wanted. 24 of 25 people found the following review helpful. Not the best arrangements. By Craig W. Smith I like Stanley Yates. I think he's a fantastic player and educator. I really like the sections of the book that go into great detail about transcribing Bach for guitar. I also like how at the end of each suite there is a dual staff comparison of the original cello and guitar versions of all the pieces. The problem is none of them are in the original cello keys which to me defeats the purpose of a cello/guitar comparison score. Furthermore, Yates's key choices for these suites are kind of a cop out in my opinion. Cello suite #1 in C seems very weak and anyone that's ever played or heard it in D Major would most likely agree that's the key for guitar. Also Yates version of Cello suite #3 in G Major rather than A major was a bad choice. Luckily I have arrangements in the latter keys for both which I prefer. Also #6 is missing key bass voicings which you will miss if you've ever heard anyone else play it on guitar or better yet cello. All in all a good bargain and it's hard to find all 6 suites for guitar much less in one book so you could do a lot worse and certainly pay a lot more if purchased separately.

Although Johann Sebastian Bach did not write any music for the guitar, transcriptions of his unaccompanied string music and music for lute have long been a part of the guitar repertoire. Despite the respect that this music commands among musicians and audiences debate still exists as to what constitutes an appropriate means of transcribing, interpreting and performing this music on the guitar. It is this debate that prompted this long-awaited edition of Bach's unaccompanied cello suites by scholar and concert guitarist Stanley Yates. This definitive work includes performance scores, comparison scores and an invaluable 40-page guide entitled *Arranging, Interpreting, and Performing the Music of J.S. Bach*. Furthermore, the author offers comments on his arranging process and suggestions on using this edition including: ornamentation, slurs, fingerings, notation, and implementation of the comparison scores. Written in standard notation in guitar-friendly keys.

About the Author Michael Marissen is the Daniel Underhill Professor of Music History, Swarthmore College, and author of *Lutheranism, Anti-Judaism, and Bach's St. John Passion* (Oxford, 1998) and *The Social and Religious Designs of J. S. Bach's Brandenburg Concertos* (Princeton, 1995), co-author (with Daniel Melamed) of *An Introduction to Bach Studies* (Oxford, 1998), and Editor, *Creative Responses to Bach from Mozart to Hindemith* (Nebraska, 1998). He is frequently an invited lecturer to major performances of Bach and Handel (e.g. the NY Philharmonic, among others), and speaks about 20+ times per year at these oratorio concerts.