



Jon Mendle

L'Infidele

Jon Mendle, who made his Carnegie Hall debut at age 19 and toured with Yo-Yo Ma and the Silk Road Ensemble, has released his first album featuring an 11-string archguitar built by Alan Perlman, a distinctive hybrid of Renaissance and Baroque lutes, and 19th-century and modern classical guitars. The album, produced by Sérgio Assad, showcases Galant music from the mid-to-late 18th century, a style that emphasized classical simplicity over the heavy ornamentation of the Baroque era. Mendle gives a thoughtfully nuanced performance of 18th-century German lutenist and composer Adam Falckenhagen's Sonata IV, Op. I, pairing rich bass notes with a singing melody and remarkable expressiveness in his ornamentation. Bridging the Baroque and Classical eras, Mendle performs "Prussian" Sonata, No. 5 by Carl Philipp Emanuel Bach (J.S. Bach's fifth child), who began his career as court harpsichordist and accompanist to King Frederick the Great of Prussia. The archguitar emulates tonal qualities of the harpsichord with a singing voice in the Andante movement. Sylvius Leopold Weiss's *L'Infidele* features hints of oriental melodies and intervals woven into a stately piece that reflects the same exotic convergence of the old and new inherent in this unique instrument, which Mendle plays with confident artistry. (In a Circle Records)

—JULIA CROWE