Menno van Delft

Biography

Menno van Delft was born in Amsterdam in 1963. He studied harpsichord, organ and musicology at the Sweelinck Conservatorium in Amsterdam, the Royal Conservatory in The Hague and Utrecht University. His teachers included Anneke Uittenbosch, Gustav Leonhardt, Bob van Asperen, Piet Kee, Jacques van Oortmerssen and Willem Elders.

In 1988, Van Delft won the clavichord prize at the C. P. E. Bach Competition in Hamburg and went on to make his debut at the Festival Oude Muziek in Utrecht. Since then, he has been active as a soloist, ensemble player and teacher, giving concerts and masterclasses throughout Europe, Japan and the United States and making numerous recordings for radio and television.

He has performed with Pieter Wispelwey, Bart Schneemann and Jacques Zoon, as well as with De Nederlandse Opera, Al Ayre Español, Cantus Cölln, the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, the Netherlands Chamber Choir, the Orchestra of the Eighteenth Century and The King's Consort. With Siebe Henstra, he forms the clavichord duo Der Prallende Doppelschlag. He has recorded for labels including Globe, Deutsche Harmonia Mundi, Chandos, EMI and Decca.

The works of J. S. Bach figure prominently in his discography. He recorded the six sonatas for violin and harpsichord with Johannes Leertouwer, Das Musikalische Opfer with Ensemble Schönbrunn, alongside Marten Root and Viola de Hoog, as well as Die Kunst der Fuge and the keyboard toccatas. He has also made recordings on harpsichord and clavichord for the Netherlands Bach Society's All of Bach project. His recording of Bach's six keyboard partitas, released in May 2018, was made on a 1784 Hoffmann clavichord from the Cobbe Collection at Hatchlands, near London.

Van Delft contributed to a recording of Jan Pieterszoon Sweelinck's complete keyboard works, which received an Edison Award in 2003 and the Preis der deutschen Schallplattenkritik. In 2004, Teknon released the first in a series of recordings on historic clavichords, featuring Van Delft playing sonatas and variations by J. G. Müthel on the 1763 J. A. Hass clavichord from the Russell Collection in Edinburgh. With Guillermo Brachetta, he made two recordings for two harpsichords. Divine Noise features works by Rameau, François Couperin and Gaspard Le Roux, and Concerto includes Bach's Concerto in C major for two harpsichords.

In October 2021, TRPTK released Miscellanea, a three-disc set with Artem Belogurov featuring music from Christopher Hogwood's keyboard collection. The programme was recorded on piano, harpsichord, clavichord and organ. The instruments include a 1766 Kirckman harpsichord and a Bätz organ dating from around 1810, both at Kasteel Amerongen in the Netherlands.

Van Delft has served on the juries of international harpsichord competitions in Bruges, Leipzig and Milan. He teaches harpsichord, clavichord and basso continuo at the Conservatorium van

Amsterdam, formerly the Sweelinck Conservatorium, and at the Hochschule für Musik und Theater Hamburg.

Several of his performances are available through All of Bach at https://www.allofbach.com/.