

BACH:Cello Suites, all

Yo-Yo Ma

Sony 85465 [2CD] 138 minutes

Suite 2, 3, 5

Bjorg Lewis

LAWO 1154—63 minutes

Here's an interesting juxtaposition of recordings.

This is Yo-Yo Ma's third and (he claims)

last recording of these famous suites. It cuts

five minutes off the timing of his previous

recording made in the 1990s (Sony 63203, M/J,

1998) and is that much more danceable and

entrancing. He plays with his customary perfection

of intonation and tone quality. Lovers

of the instrument will want this, while lovers of
early music styles may be a little less happy.

He uses vibrato and slows down for the sake of

phrasing and clarity of double stops. I find I

can put up with that and follow him down the

path with enjoyment. He hopes to play them

many times in the next few years and is only in

his 60s. Hey, man, I've got you beat by a bit

and I'm still playing them! The liner notes are

by him and also by Michael Stern, music director

of the Kansas City Symphony and an old

friend of Ma. The album is called *Six Evolutions*.

It is beautifully recorded. Don't miss it!

Bjorg Lewis is a Norwegian cellist living in

the United Kingdom—and, somewhat to my

surprise, a girl. Her recording was made back

in 2012. She plays with a fine style and emphasizes

the dance elements of this music in a

highly enjoyable way. She performs in numerous

countries, was a founder of the Vertavo

Quartet, and is playing a fine Gagliano cello.

This is a good recording of a cellist worth

keeping up on.

D MOORE

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