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The Berlin Concert

By Simone Dinnerstein, out Sept. 23

A little-known 34-year-old pianist releases her first solo CD — a self-produced recording of Bach's *Goldberg Variations* — and it wows the music world by shooting to No. 1 on the classical charts, making her an instant international star. This fairy tale actually happened last year to Brooklyn-based Simone Dinnerstein. It was a rare case of quality substituting for hype: Dinnerstein's Bach had an arresting freshness and subtlety all her own. Now comes her eagerly awaited follow-up, *The Berlin Concert*, a live recital recording of more Bach, Beethoven's daunting final sonata and a contemporary take on a Bach chorale by American composer Philip Lasser. Another chart-topper? Who knows? But it's every bit as audacious — and accomplished — as Dinnerstein's debut.

— *Christopher Porterfield*



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