

“I have never before heard the Goldberg Variations as Rattya plays them. His creative energy is remarkable, and he brings Bach’s music to life in a way that is rarely heard on any instrument. Expect to forget that you are hearing a transcription in the first few seconds of the Aria.”

- American Record Guide, Nov/Dec 2012, Benjamin Katz

“Rättyä’s Goldberg Variations are pure and remarkable for their impeccable technique, sensitive phrasing and beguiling mix of lyricism and playfulness. No contrapuntal detail is sacrificed; ornaments are punctiliously refined yet sound spontaneous in execution.”

- Limelight Magazine, Editor’s Choice, Aug 2012, Melissa Lesnie

“Bach's "Goldberg" Variations played on the accordion? It sounds like a gimmick, but the reality is completely different: This is a richly beautiful and often revelatory treatment of a familiar masterpiece. The Finnish virtuoso Janne Rättyä treads a splendid line between innovation and reverence, keeping intact the essential elements of the score - the clarity of Bach's counterpoint, the swell and fall of his melodic writing - while still finding wonderful new angles in the transformed setting...an amply rewarding variant.”

- San Francisco Chronicle, July 2012, Joshua Kosman

- BBC CD Review, 15th of Sep 2012, Quotes from a Talk with Jessica Duchon and Andrew McGregor

J: “ I was completely enchanted by this disc. You know the idea takes a little bit of getting used to and good heavens Bach on the accordion but the thing is that Rättyä’s musicianship is so fantastic that after a little while you kind of forget about the instrument and just listen to what he’s doing.”

“You can hear every note and you can hear every little idea that is running through his mind as he plays this and he really makes a lot more of it than certain keyboard players I can think of. “

A: “ And so much of what we hear it just feels instinctively right, doesn’t it, in terms of the rhythms and in terms of the pacing of the different variations and the way in which we move from one to the other. It just flows as you say so it’s beautifully done. “

J: “ You don’t get any sense that there is any effort about this. It just sounds as if he is having the most tremendous fun. “

A: “ Well, it’s a real achievement. We both obviously enjoyed this a lot. “