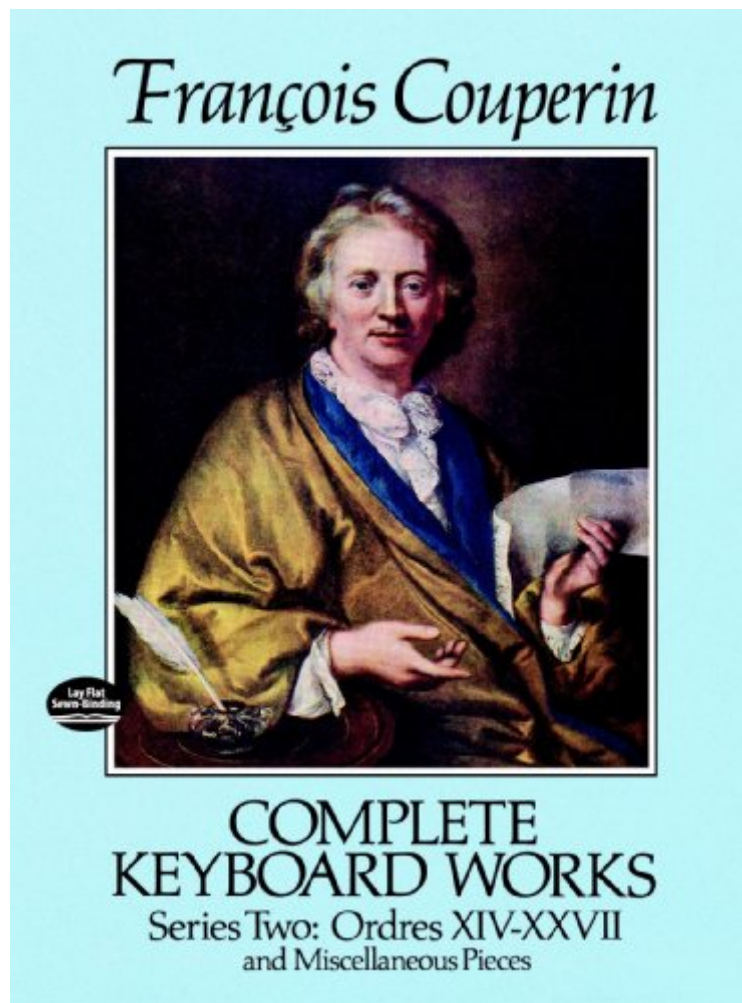


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Complete Keyboard Works, Series Two: Ordres XIV-XXVII And Miscellaneous Pieces (Dover Music For Piano)



Synopsis

"His melodic imagination displays admirable freshness. He possesses a delicate harmonic sense. His themes show the inspirations of an impassioned musician: perfectly created, firm in line, vivid, and enduring in color. His art never wavers; it consistently exhibits a magnificent technique." — John Gillespie, *Five Centuries of Keyboard Music*

This famous edition, prepared a century ago by Johannes Brahms and Friedrich Chrysander, presents all of the 27 keyboard suites, or *Ordres*, by the great French composer François Couperin (1668–1733). Also included are the *Allemande* and 8 Preludes from Couperin's famous harpsichord treatise, *L'Art de Toucher le Clavecin*. In these magnificent works (there are over 200 compositions in the two volumes) lies the supreme achievement of French keyboard music, a rich source of subtle, sometimes startling, always pleasurable music for keyboard artists and students at every level of expertise. The moods, rhythms, and melodies of these distinctive compositions range across a broad musical spectrum, from crisp gavottes to noble sarabandes, from flowing allemandes to lively gigue. Some of the pieces suggest carnival merriment, others tender reflection; most have colorful and mysterious names. Couperin's virtuoso command of harpsichord style, his magnificent technique, and ever-fresh melodic imagination pervade them all. Witty, graceful, and tuneful, the keyboard works of Couperin represent a wonderful legacy of late-baroque masterpieces. Beautifully reproduced in this inexpensive edition, they make abundantly clear the justice of Bach's intense admiration for Couperin's music and the aptness of the French master's surname — "le grand." Note: Series Two contains *Ordres* 14–27 plus 8 Preludes and *Allemande* from *L'Art de Toucher le Clavecin*.

Book Information

File Size: 260684 KB

Print Length: 256 pages

Publisher: Dover Publications (September 29, 2013)

Publication Date: September 29, 2013

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B00A7IVYAU

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Not Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #2,041,375 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #21

inÂ Books > Humor & Entertainment > Sheet Music & Scores > Composers > Couperin #854

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