Sylvius Leopold Weiss

1685 – 1750

Fuga No. 6

for Guitar

Transcribed from the lute tablature and arranged by
Deric Kennard

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PREVIEW
Low Resolution

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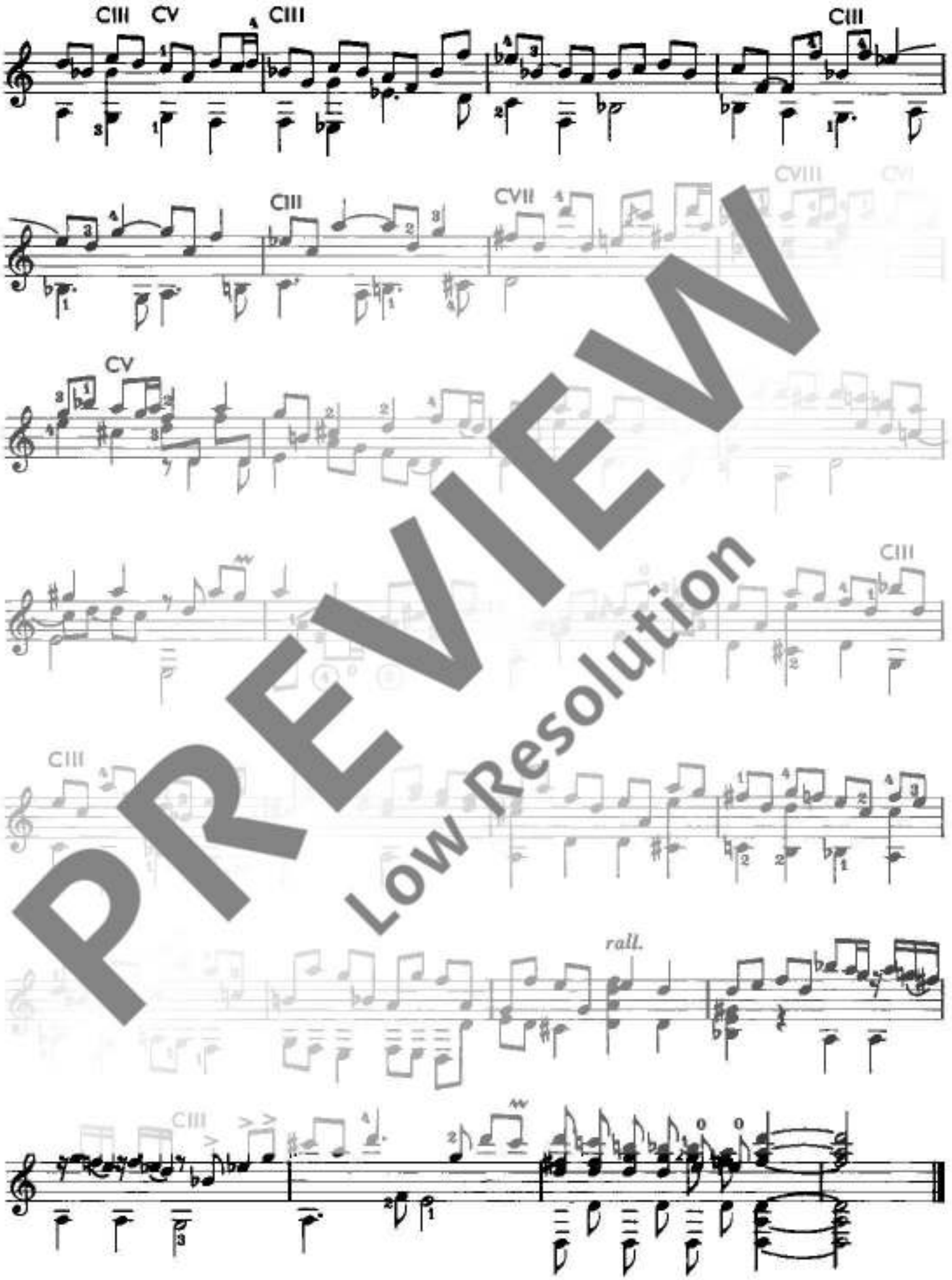

PREVIEW
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Sylvius Leopold Weiss was born in Breslau in 1686 and died in Dresden in 1750. His father Johann Jacob was a talented musician and theorbo player, and both his brother Johann Sigismond and his own son Johann Adolphus were well-known lutenists.

As a young man Sylvius Leopold went with the Polish Prince Alexander Sobieski to Rome, living there for some six years until the prince's death in 1714. After a short stay at the Court of Hesse-Cassel, he then went back to Düsseldorf.

In 1717 he obtained the post of Court Lutenist to the Elector of Saxony and resided thereafter in Dresden. He was included in the band of the twelve best musicians which the Court sent to Vienna in 1718.

Ernst Theophile Baron, a contemporary lutenist, writes in his book on the lute (*Historisch-theoretische und practische Untersuchung des Instruments der Lauten*, 17[illegible]) that Weiss was famous for his ability to [illegible] that few organists could play fugues as well [illegible] could on his lute. While at Dresden he is said to [illegible] competed in improvisation with [illegible] a personal friend, and he was con[illegible] temporaries as the greatest lute play[illegible]

Weiss played on the large 13-course [illegible] ed in D minor (as shown be[illegible] which [illegible] avour towards the end of the lu[illegible] .

[illegible] instrument had 6 courses on the finger [illegible] containing [illegible] free basses, the tuning of [illegible] shared [illegible] to the key of the piece. [illegible] the tablature that Weiss's lute [illegible] strings [illegible] finger board although the 7th was [illegible]

Sylvius Leopold Weiss left 11 collections of solos, 10 trios, [illegible] concertos, all in Ms. tablature. In recent years [illegible] have been transcribed into notation in [illegible] such as *Das Erbe Deutscher Musik*.

[illegible] transcriptions for the guitar have been [illegible] in Ms. tablature in the British Museum.

[illegible] arrangement is necessary, and generally a [illegible] to another key. Many of these lute pieces when transposed can nevertheless be very faithfully presented on the guitar.

The manuscript carries no indication of tempo or expression so that those given in these transcriptions are editorial.

Deric Kennard

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