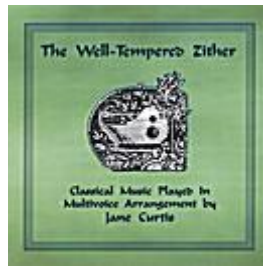


## Mp3 Jane Curtis - The Well-tempered Zither



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Classical music from Baroque through Haydn, Schubert, Waltz King Johann Strauss Jr, and the modern Faur Pavane, including an old French Nol and a haunting song, all played in rich-textured multivoice arrangements on the concert zither. 11 MP3 Songs CLASSICAL: Traditional, CLASSICAL: Contemporary

Details: Jane Curtis has been involved with the zither for a long time, as performer, arranger, composer, teacher, and author. You may also have heard her background music on the Great Chefs television series. Her repertoire covers many forms and styles, many times and nationalities. In describing her playing, reviewers and listeners on both sides of the Atlantic speak of its beauty, liveliness, technical precision, and feeling for the music. This classical collection includes music of different periods and styles, arranged to be played by two or more zithers. One voice is recorded first and as many as four more voices are added, one at a time. A fuller texture is thus woven than is possible with just one solo instrument, but the unique sound of the zither is preserved in each individual voice. Through the magic of state-of-the-art recording techniques, the voices are synchronized, then balanced and blended by expert sound engineering. The zither heard on this CD was made at the master workshop of Horst Wnsche, Markneukirchen, Germany, and recorded acoustically to preserve the true zither sound. It is the true European zither, very different from the autoharp, the koto, and various other stringed instruments sometimes referred to generically as zithers. The zither originated more than two hundred years ago in the German-speaking alpine regions of Austria, Germany, and Switzerland. It began as a rudimentary device with three strings over a diatonic fretboard and (at first) only one open string acting as a drone accompaniment. From this modest beginning it has evolved into the fine instrument of today. The zither consists of a flat sounding-box with five strings over a fretboard along one side and an additional 24 to 42 strings stretched over the sounding-box, played open. Playing the zither is thus playing two instruments at

the same time, making it the most difficult of all instruments to learn. The tones from the fretboard strings are clear and bright, while the open strings produce softly resonant tones, more like those of the harp. The combination of these two types of tone gives the zither its unique sound, and the direct touch of the fingers on the strings enhances the quality of tone. Once you can play the zither (it takes at least a few months to play even simple music), it lends itself to many types and styles of music. It is especially suited to modulation and can provide great tonal and harmonic variety through such techniques as harmonics, metallico (striking close to the bridge), and pizzicato (the only time a zither is plucked, as distinct from the firm pulling motion required to make the strings sound).

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