

*Suite Life*

Bergen Barokk—Lawo 1096—66 minutes

This is a most pleasant potpourri of French baroque chamber music. The four suites are arranged by key, but the performers have created eclectic mixes of short dances by many different composers rather than single integral collections by Nicolas Chedeville, François Couperin, Michel de la Barre, Jacques-Martin Hotteterre le Romain, Marin Marais, Anne Danican Philidor, and Robert de Visée.

The five members of Bergen Barokk— Forde Thorsen (recorders), Hans Knut Sveen (hpsi), Markku Luolajan-Mikkola (viola da gamba), Thomas C. Boysen (theorbo), and Thor-Harlad Johnsen (guitar)—are all sensitive to the French style.

I found both the Chaconne in A by Philidor and the Chaconne in G by De la Barre very effective, with the constant shifting between the possible permutations and combinations of these five accomplished musicians.

BREWER

*American Record Guide*