

Lorraine Hunt-Lieberson - A Tribute (2011)

Written by bluesever

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DISC 1: Handel: Ariodante, opera, HWV 33 01 : Act 1. Arioso Qui d'amor 02 : Act 1. Aria
Con l'ali di costanza 03 : Act 2. Recit. E vivo ancora? 04 : Act 2. Aria Scherza infida 05 : Act
3. Aria Dopo notte, atra e funesta Handel:

Theodora, oratorio, HWV 68

06 : Act 1. Air Angels, ever bright and fair 07 : Act 2. Recit. O Thou bright Sun 08 : Act 2. Air
With Darkness, deep 09 : Act 2. Air Oh! that I on wings could rise 10 : Act 2. Duet To Thee,
thou glorious Son

Handel: Messiah, oratorio, HWV 56

11 : Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion 12 : MBut who may abide the day of His coming 13 :
He was despised and rejected of men 14 : I know that my Redeemer liveth

Purcell: Dido and Aeneas, opera, Z. 626

15 : Act 3. Thy hand, Belinda When I am laid in earth

DISC 2: Handel: Clori, Tirsi e Fileno, cantata, HWV 96

01 : Act 1. Aria Va col canto lusingando 02 : Act 2. Aria Barbaro! tu non credi

Handel: Susanna, oratorio, HWV 66

03 : Act 1. On Joachim may every joy attend 04 : Act 1. Bending to the throne of glory 05 : Act
2. Lead me to some cool retreat 06 : Act 2. Crystal streams in murmurs flowing 07 : Act 2. If
guiltless blood be your intent 08 : Act 3. Guilt trembling spoke my doom

Handel: Radamisto, opera, HWV 12

09 : Act 3. Recit. Oh Dio! parte Zenobia 10 : Act 3. Aria Qual nave smarrita

Handel: Ottone, re di Germania, opera, HWV 15

11 : Act 2. Recit. Ben a ragion 12 : Act 2. Aria Vieni, o figlio

Handel: Giulio Cesare in Egitto, opera, HWV 17

13 : Act 1. Recit. Vani sono 14 : Act 1. Aria Svegliatevi nel core

Handel: Arianna in Creta, opera, HWV 32

15 : Act 2. Aria Qual leon

Bach, J.S: The Notebook for Anna Magdalena Bach (1725)

16 : Aria Bist du bei mir, for voice & continuo, BWV 508

Lorraine Hunt-Lieberson - mezzo-soprano, Freiburger Barockorchester Philharmonia
Baroque Orchestra Nicholas McGegan - conductor

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This set is a tribute to the supreme artistry of mezzo-soprano Lorraine Hunt Lieberson (1954-2006). It gathers together some of the finest recordings of arias and duets made during her acclaimed association with Harmonia Mundi. Highlights include selections from Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas* and Handel's *Messiah*. Hunt Lieberson is accompanied by Nicholas McGegan, leading the Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra and the Freiburger Barockorchester. ---Editorial Reviews, amazon.com

Harmonia Mundi's two-disc tribute to mezzo-soprano Lorraine Hunt Lieberson focuses on her legacy in Baroque opera and oratorio, particularly the works of Handel. The recordings span a relatively brief time (1989-1995) from early in her career, beginning only about five years after she began singing professionally, so it's a testimony to the fact that so many of the elements that characterized her singing -- a voice of exceptional warmth, sensuality, depth, and color deployed in performances of devastatingly focused expression of the music's emotional core, whether in opera or concert works -- were solidly in place from the beginning. Hunt Lieberson's absolutely technical security freed her to devote her considerable gifts to bringing the music to life with absolute honesty. Her performances are so consistent in their tonal beauty, musical refinement, and transparent communicativeness that it becomes almost meaningless to speak of highlights or stand-out tracks. Her duet with counter-tenor Drew Minter in "To Thee, Thou glorious Son," is heartbreaking in its piercing emotionality. The solos from *Messiah* are so familiar to most listeners that they require truly spectacular performances to make an impact, and here they do; "But who may abide the day of his coming" practically blazes and "I know that my Redeemer liveth" shimmers with radiance. Nicholas McGegan, a frequent collaborator of Hunt Lieberson's in both live performances and recordings, leads the Boston-based Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra (and in excerpts from one opera, Freiburger Barockorchester) in stellar accompaniment, sensitive to the conventions of informed period performance practice and lively in expression. Harmonia Mundi's sound is consistently very fine, warm, detailed, and present. This gorgeous recording will be indispensable for Hunt Lieberson's fans. ---Stephen Eddins, AllMusic Review

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