Jose De Nebra – Stabat Mater (2005)

1. Responsario Beata Viscera play 2. Lamentacion II De Miercoles Santo 3. Lamentacion II De Viernes Santo 4. Stabat Mater 5. Motete Cimcumdederunt Me 6. Himno De San Juan 7. Himno A San Pedro play 8. Salmo Dixit Dominus (Ps.110) 9. Salmo Laudate Dominum (Ps.117) 10. Salmo Domine Probasti Me (Ps.139)
Greta de Reyghere and Katelijne van Laethem, sopranos Petra Noskaiová, alto Philip Defranck, tenor Capilla Principe de Viana Angerl Recasens – conductor

José de Nebra was born in Calatayud, Zaragoza, in Spain in 1702. At the age of sixteen he started his career as an organist, from 1724 at the Capilla Real in Madrid. In 1749 he became the main organist and in 1751 its vicemaestro. He lived under the reign of three emperors, so he had to adept to musical tastes and wishes of all of them. Starting to compose around the age of 30, he at first composed mainly works for the theatre, but the last 20 years of his life were dedicated almost completely to sacred works. In his last years he was charged with the education of the infante don Gabriel, so he had to write pieces for keyboard with which the prince could study, and his output in sacred works was reduced. He died in 1768.

Stabat Mater, 1752, for 2 Sopranos, Alto, Tenor and Orchestra. The work is not really divided into different sections, but part of the stanzas are sung by the soloists together, wile others are given to single voices. The music does not feel deeply tragic, I would say rather optimistic, culminating in the final Amen - a fugue - as can be heard in many Stabat Mater compositions.

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