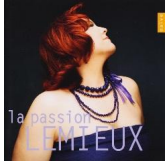


Marie-Nicole Lemieux - La Passion Lemieux (2014)

Written by bluesever

Sunday, 28 September 2014 15:37 -

Marie-Nicole Lemieux - La Passion Lemieux (2014)



01. Handel - *Empio, diro, tu sei* - *Giulio Cesare* 03:38 02. Gluck - *Che faro senza euridice* - *Orfeo ed Euridice* 04:21 03. Saint-Saëns - *Mon coeur s'ouvre a ta voix* - *Samson et Dalila* 06:35 04. Vivaldi - *Dimmi pastore* - *La fida ninfa* 02:44 05. Mozart - *Voi, che sapete che cosa e amor* - *Le nozze di Figaro* 02:58 06. Vivaldi - *aure lievi che spirante* - *La fida ninfa* 05:59 07. Gluck - *Jupiter, lance la foudre* - *Iphigenie eb Aulide* 04:06 08. Offenbach - *Examinez bien ma figure* - *La Fille du tambour-major* 02:23 09. Vivaldi - *Nel profondo* - *Orlando furioso* 04:02 10. Mozart - *Venga pur, minacci e frema* - *Mitridate, re di Ponto* 06:55 11. Berlioz - *Je vais mourir* - *Les Troyens* 06:20 12. Handel - *I lampo dell'armi* - *Giulio Cesare* 03:21 13. Mozart - *Deh, per questo istante solo* - *La clemenza di Tito* 06:51 14. Vivaldi - *Infelice griselda* - *Griselda* 00:48 15. Vivaldi - *Ho il cor gia lacero* - *Griselda* 03:56 16. Massenet - *Ne me refuse pas* - *Herodiade* 06:06 17. Handel - *Caro, bella* - *Giulio Cesare* 04:50 Marie-Nicole Lemieux (contralto) + Karina Gauvin (soprano) Philippe Jaroussky (countertenor) Francois Lis (bass) Ensemble Matheus, Jean-Christophe Spinosi (director) Il Complesso Barocco, Alan Curtis (director) Les violons du Roy, Bernard Labadie (director) Orchestre National de France, Fabien Gabel (director)

This special project features the finest opera arias recorded by Canadian contralto Marie-Nicole Lemieux for Naïve, ranging from Vivaldi, Handel and Mozart to Saint-Saëns, Massenet, and Berlioz. It gathers tracks from six recordings released between 2003 and 2012, resulting from collaborations with some of the finest orchestras of the time: Il Complesso Barocco, Ensemble Matheus, Les Violons du Roy, Orchestre National de France. ---arkivmusic.com

Most people like a peach to be really juicy and this is the kind of effect you get with Marie-Nicole Lemieux's voice. It is of an intensity and lustre that hits you straight away in the opening Handel

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aria from Giulio Cesare, where the runs are tossed off with devil-may-care bravado and a daringly full-on vibrato used where the note is long enough to sustain it, at one point coarsening the tone to almost a snarl, it's so vivid ... I don't know the situation the character is in but she certainly seems to be pushed to a response of the utmost passion.

The rest of the disc fulfils this promise, bearing out the title fully. Lemieux is a vocal wonder, a bit like Marilyn Horne in sound, but pushing more to extremes. Personally I can't get enough of it, ever since discovering her by chance on a DVD devoted to Philippe Jaroussky. She duets with him here, as well as with a soprano and a bass, and the repertoire ranges from baroque to high Romantic, with fabulous arias by Berlioz and Saint-Saëns showing the heights those composers could reach, each in their own quite different way. She carries both off just as well, having the most beguiling sense of line in Dalila's aria, while the genuinely tragic utterance of Dido is never in doubt. Classical style is represented - again with extraordinary ripeness - in Gluck and Mozart (from 1770 and 1791, when the composer was 14 and then in the last year of his life, as well as something in between). There is also some fantastic Vivaldi, a stand-out aria from Orlando Furioso proving absolutely irresistible with Jean Christophe-Spinosi providing the support of a fantastic electric cushion (one with bendy neon stripes stitched into the brilliant texture - or something like that ...) ---schumann_bg, amazon.com

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