

Handel - Aminta e Fillide - Italian Cantatas Vol.4 (2008)

Written by bluesever

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Aminta e Fillide (Arresta il passo) [HWV 83]

Clori, mia bella Cloria [HWV 92]

Performer:

Maria Grazia Schiavo, soprano

Nuria Rial, soprano

La Risonanza

Fabio Bonizzoni – conductor

Volumes three and four of this must-have series have fallen slightly short of their five-star, award-winning predecessors, but remain eminently collectable, not only for the quality of Handel's youthful music for his patrons on his grand tour of the Italian peninsula (1706-09), but for the flair and verve of the performances. These two cantatas were composed for the Marchese Ruspoli about 1707, and the more substantial of the two, *Aminta e Fillide* (Amyntas and Phyllis), is a pastoral dialogue for two Arcadian lovers, inspired by Alessandro Scarlatti's masterpieces in the genre. As always in Handel's Italian works *Dixit dominus*, *Il Trionfo del tempo e del disinganno*, the opera *Agrippina* one gets the sense of the young German virtuoso champing at the bit to outdo his Italian peers and colleagues, with exhilarating results. The delight here, especially for Handelians, is to encounter early versions of some of the composer's favourite arias, subsequently recycled for his operas *Agrippina* (in Venice) and *Rinaldo* (in London). The lilting waltz-time *Fiamma bella* must have been a hit with the audience and the original singer, Margherita Durastanti, because Handel recast it as *Agrippina's* *Ogni vento* (for the same soprano) a year later. *Aminta* has a memorably lilting number that became the mermaids song in *Rinaldo*. Schiavo (above) and Rial both have bright, agile voices.. and sing the words with real bite. La Risonanza accompanies in immaculate style. --Hugh Canning, amazon.com

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