Written by bluesever Friday, 30 April 2010 19:51 - Last Updated Monday, 09 June 2014 17:29

Telemann - Six Orchestral Suites after 'Die Kleine Kammermusik' (2004)



CD 1 01 - La Stagione, Michael Schneider - Ouverture - Suite E Flat Major, TWV 55:Es 5 (06:01) 02 - La Stagione, Michael Schneider - Preludio: Affetuoso - Suite E Flat Major, TWV 55:Es 5 (01:50) 03 - La Stagione, Michael Schneider - Aria I: Presto - Suite E Flat Major, TWV 55:Es 5 (00:54) 04 - La Stagione, Michael Schneider - Aria II: Vivace - Suite E Flat Major, TWV 55:Es 5 (01:17) 05 - La Stagione, Michael Schneider - Aria III: Tempo Di Ciacona - Suite E Flat Major, TWV 55:Es 5 (01:15) 06 - La Stagione, Michael Schneider - Aria IV: Allegro - Suite E Flat Major, TWV 55:Es 5 (00:47) 07 - La Stagione, Michael Schneider - Aria V: Allegro - Suite E Flat Major, TWV 55:Es 5 (01:54) 08 - La Stagione, Michael Schneider - Aria VI: Tempo Di Minue (Allegro) - Suite E Flat Major, TWV 55:Es 5 (02:27) 09 - La Stagione, Michael Schneider - Ouverture - Suite B Flat Major, TWV 55:B 2 (05:32) 10 - La Stagione, Michael Schneider -Preludio: Con Affeto - Suite B Flat Major, TWV 55:B 2 (01:55) 11 - La Stagione, Michael Schneider - Aria I: Presto - Suite B Flat Major, TWV 55:B 2 (01:22) 12 - La Stagione, Michael Schneider - Aria II: Dolce - Suite B Flat Major, TWV 55:B 2 (02:40) 13 - La Stagione, Michael Schneider - Aria III: Vivace - Suite B Flat Major, TWV 55:B 2 (01:06) 14 - La Stagione, Michael Schneider - Aria IV: Sarabande - Suite B Flat Major, TWV 55:B 2 (02:32) 15 - La Stagione, Michael Schneider - Aria V: (Presto) - Suite B Flat Major, TWV 55:B 2 (00:41) 16 - La Stagione, Michael Schneider - Aria VI: Allegro - Suite B Flat Major, TWV 55:B 2 (00:54) 17 - La Stagione, Michael Schneider - Ouverture - Suite G Minor, TWV 55:G3 (06:31) 18 - La Stagione, Michael Schneider - Preludio: Grave - Suite G Minor, TWV 55:G3 (02:17) 19 - La Stagione, Michael Schneider - Aria I: Allegro - Suite G Minor, TWV 55:G3 (01:08) 20 - La Stagione, Michael Schneider - Aria II: Allegro - Suite G Minor, TWV 55:G3 (01:46) 21 - La Stagione, Michael Schneider - Aria III: Tempo Di Minuet - Suite G Minor, TWV 55:G3 (00:44) 22 - La Stagione, Michael Schneider - Aria IV: Allegro - Suite G Minor, TWV 55:G3 (01:45) 23 - La Stagione, Michael Schneider - Aria V: Tempo Giusto (With Double) - Suite G Minor, TWV 55:G3 (03:27) 24 - La Stagione, Michael Schneider - Aria VI: Allegro Assai - Suite G Minor, TWV 55:G3 (01:42)CD 2 1. Overture Stagione Frankfurt, La 5:58 2. Overture (Suite) in E Minor, TWV 55:e6: Preludio: Andante Stagione Frankfurt, La 1:29 3. Overture (Suite) in E Minor, TWV 55:e6: Aria I: [Vivace] Stagione Frankfurt, La 1:28 4. Overture (Suite) in E Minor, TWV 55:e6: Aria II: [Presto] Stagione Frankfurt, La 1:07 5. Overture (Suite) in E Minor, TWV 55:e6: Aria III: [Vivace] Stagione Frankfurt, La 0:58 6. Overture (Suite) in E Minor, TWV 55:e6: Aria IV: [Siciliana] Stagione Frankfurt, La 2:12 7. Overture (Suite) in E Minor, TWV 55:e6: Aria V: Presto Stagione Frankfurt, La 0:49 8. Overture (Suite) in E Minor, TWV 55:e6: Aria VI: [Vivace] Stagione Frankfurt, La 1:43 9. Overture Stagione Frankfurt, La 6:31 10. Overture (Suite) in G Major, TWV 55:G2, "La Bizarre": Preludio: Siciliana Stagione Frankfurt, La 1:37 11. Overture

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(Suite) in G Major, TWV 55:G2, "La Bizarre": Aria I: Allegro Stagione Frankfurt, La 1:09 12. Overture (Suite) in G Major, TWV 55:G2, "La Bizarre": Aria II: Allegro Stagione Frankfurt, La 1:22 13. Overture (Suite) in G Major, TWV 55:G2, "La Bizarre": Aria III: Vivace Stagione Frankfurt, La 1:05 14. Overture (Suite) in G Major, TWV 55:G2, "La Bizarre": Aria IV: Affettuoso Stagione Frankfurt, La 2:07 15. Overture (Suite) in G Major, TWV 55:G2, "La Bizarre": Aria V: Presto Stagione Frankfurt, La 0:48 16. Overture (Suite) in G Major, TWV 55:G2, "La Bizarre": Aria VI: Tempo di menuet Stagione Frankfurt, La 2:47 17. Overture Stagione Frankfurt, La 6:27 18. Overture (Suite) in C Minor, TWV 55:c3: Preludio: Adagio Stagione Frankfurt, La 1:59 19. Overture (Suite) in C Minor, TWV 55:c3: Aria I: Presto Stagione Frankfurt, La 0:51 20. Overture (Suite) in C Minor, TWV 55:c3: Aria II: Vivace Stagione Frankfurt, La 1:16 21. Overture (Suite) in C Minor, TWV 55:c3: Aria III: Vivace Stagione Frankfurt, La 1:41 22. Overture (Suite) in C Minor, TWV 55:c3: Aria IV: Allegro Stagione Frankfurt, La 0:43 23. Overture (Suite) in C Minor, TWV 55:c3: Aria V: Vivace Stagione Frankfurt, La 1:09 24. Overture (Suite) in C Minor, TWV 55:c3: Aria V: Vivace Stagione Frankfurt, La 1:01 La Stagione Orchestra Michael Schneider (conductor)

In their versions for solo instrument and basso continuo, these suites are familiar to oboists, violinists and, of course, recorder players, whose repertoire debt to Telemann is immeasurable. I can confirm, as a devotee of the recorder myself, that the suites from Die Kleine Kammermusik are of particular value as their original pitch suits the descant (soprano) recorder. It's not that there is any shortage of work for that excessively high-pitched instrument, just that the best of Telemann's solo sonatas are for the treble (alto) of the family.

On this CD we have the first recording of Telemann's orchestration of the suites. Given that Telemann was very well acquainted with some of the best players of his day, the oboe is very much to the fore as a solo instrument. The original suites were written as melody line plus figured bass and Telemann retained the top and bottom lines, realising the basso continuo as inner orchestral parts. The repeats are ornamented in the standard baroque manner. While the individual numbers are not titled as dances (allemande, courante, gavotte, etc, unlike Bach's orchestral suites, and many others of the day) but as Arias (with a Preludio for each suite), many of which are in the French fashion. Others are contrapuntal or dances from elsewhere (even one that could pass for a Highland fling!).

In migrating these fairly lightweight sets of tunes to the larger form, Telemann added substance (and about fifty percent to the length) by prefacing each suite with a substantial ouverture in the French style. Of course, we are not talking about suites on the scale of Bach's, neither in size nor seriousness, nor would they been intended to be. The essence of Telemann's music is bourgeois and middle-class, typically written for the amateur. His art as a composer was to

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compose works playable by a modest performer but which repay the skill brought to them by a virtuoso.

So here we have music that works whether played by a student of the recorder or a baroque orchestra of the quality of La Stagione Frankfurt under Michael Schneider's capable direction (he is himself a recorder player of distinction). The playing is warm and stylish and is enthusiastically recommended when you feel like easing back into an armchair of baroque easy-listening comfort! --- Roger Blackburn, musicweb-international.com

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