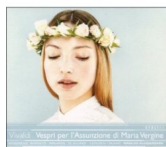


Vivaldi - Vespri per l'Assunzione di Maria Vergine (2004)

Written by bluesever

Friday, 18 February 2011 09:55 - Last Updated Friday, 27 June 2014 14:49

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Disc: 1 1. *Allegro Non Molto* 2. *In tonatio: Deus In Adiutorium* 3. *Domine Ad Adiuvandum Me Festina: Allegro* 4. *Gloria Patri: Andante Molto* 5. *Sicut Erat In Principio: Andante - Allegro* 6. *Aria: Ascende Laeta: Allegro* 7. *Recitativo: Quam Pulchri, Quam Formosi* 8. *Aria: Sternite, Angeli: Presto* 9. *Dixit Dominus: Allegro* 10. *Donec Ponam Inimicos Tuos: Largo* 11. *Virgam Virtutis Tuae: Allegro* [play](#) 12. *Tecum Principium: Andante* 13. *Juravit Dominus: Adagio - Allegro* 14. *Dominus A Dextris Tuis: Allegro* 15. *Judicabit In Nationibus: Largo* 16. *De Torrente In Via: Andante* 17. *Gloria Patri: Allegro* 18. *Sicut Erat In Principio: Allegro* 19. *Antifona Assumpta Est Maria In Caelo* 20. *Antifona Al Laudate Pueri: Maria Virgo Assumpta Est* 21. *Laudate Pueri: Allegro* 22. *Sit Nomen Domini: Largo* 23. *A Solis Ortu: Allegro* 24. *Excelsus Super Omnes: Andante* 25. *Quis Sicut Dominus: Largo* 26. *Suscitans A Terra: Presto - Adagio - Andante* 27. *Ut Collecet Eum: Allegro* [play](#) 28. *Gloria: Largo* 29. *Sicut Erat: Allegro* 30. *Amen: Allegro* 31. *Antifona Maria Virgo Assumpta Est* 32. *Antifona Al Laetatus Sum: In Odorem Unguentorum* 33. *Allegro* 34. *Antifona In Odorem Unguentorum*

Disc: 2

1. *Antifona Al Nisi Dominus: Benedicta Filia Tua Domino* 2. *Nisi Dominus: Allegro* 3. *Vanum Est Vobis: Largo* 4. *Surgite Postquam Sederitis: Presto - Adagio* 5. *Cum Dederit: Andante* 6. *Sicut Sagittae: Allegro* 7. *Beatus Vir: Andante* 8. *Gloria Patri: Larghetto* 9. *Sicut Erat: Allegro* 10. *Amen: Allegro* 11. *Antifona Benedicta Filia Tua Domino* 12. *Antifona Al Lauda Jerusalem: Pulchra Es Et Decora* 13. *Allegro* 14. *Antifona Pulchra Es Et Decora* 15. *Ave Maris Stella* [play](#) 16. *Antifona Al Magnificat* 17. *Magnificat: Adagio* 18. *Et Exultavit: Allegro* 19. *Et Misericordia: Andante Molto* 20. *Fecit Potentiam: Presto* 21. *Deposuit Potentes: Allegro* 22. *Esurientes Implevit Bonis: Allegro* 23. *Suscepit Israel: Largo - Allegro - Adagio* 24. *Sicut Locutus: Allegro Ma Poco* 25. *Gloria Patri: Largo - Andante - Allegro* [play](#) 26. *Adagio E Staccato - Allegro Ma Poco Poco* 27. *Largo* 28. *Allegro* 29. *Salve Regina: Andante* 30. *Ad Te Clamamus: Allegro* 31. *Ad Te Suspiramus: Larghetto* 32. *Eja Ergo: Allegro* 33. *Et Jesum: Allegro Molto* 34. *O Clemens: Andante*

Gemma Bertagnolli (soprano) Roberta Invernizzi (soprano) Anna Simboli (soprano) Sara Mingardo (contralto) Gianluca Ferrarini (tenor) Matteo Bellotto (baritone) Antonio De Secondi (violin) Concerto Italiano Rinaldo Alessandrini – conductor

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Try a little Vivaldi for a change! The Solemn Vespers for the Feast of the Assumption are music on about the same scale as Handel's Messiah, and they are anything but solemn. The musical mood ranges from boisterous exuberance to serene exaltation, with only a splash of anguish in the alto solo of the Laudate Pueri, when mention is made of barrenness. The texts are almost all the same Latin antiphons and psalms set by Claudio Monteverdi in his Vespers of 1610. A single year of composition can't be assigned to these Vespers, however, since the whole set is a hypothetical reconstruction drawn from various sources of Vivaldi's sacred music. Yes, Virginia, Vivaldi was a priest, and wrote quite a lot of sacred music, together with at least 46 operas. The Four Seasons, universally execrated as the choice for "May I put you on hold" in every dentist's phone in the world, is only the tiniest smidgeon of Vivaldi's output. Scoffers, get over it! The music of the Vespers purls forth in seamless melody and contrapuntal invention like the sparkling waters of the Trevi Fountain. To spurn Vivaldi is to declare that you don't like fun! Besides, it's all in Latin, so you don't need to politely ignore any pious hogwash.

The singers of Concerto Italiano are in fact all Italian - Gemma Bertagnolli, Roberta Invernizzi, Anna Simboli, Sara Mingardo, Gianluca Ferrarini, Matteo Belloto, conducted by Rinaldo Alessandrini. Just singing their names would give me a spritz of 'bel canto.' If you're familiar with the superb recordings by Concerto Italiano of Monteverdi's eight books of madrigals, these singers will be familiar names to you already, and will amount to a pretty good guarantee of the vocal virtuosity of this performance. The principal violinist is also Italian, Antonio De Secondi. Just as the best performances of Handel usually feature English singers and choristers, it seems to me that the Italians have a special feeling for Vivaldi. I believe they call it "Gioia".

The Vespers, by the way, are not included in the Brilliant Classics Box of Vivaldi Masterworks, except for the Magnificat. This performance is far superior to that of the ensemble in the box. I should point out that, as a conjectural Vespers, these two CDs are more a concert selection of fine individual pieces than a unified work. Alessandrini has chosen to order them following the fairly standard liturgical sequence for Marian Vespers. Nothing wrong with that, but the result is that the parts are greater than the sum. –Giordano Bruno

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