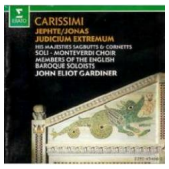
Carissimi - Judicium Extremum; Jepthe; Jonas (1992)



Judicium Extremum, oratorio for 5 soloists, double chorus, 2 violins & continuo *1. Aspiciebam in visione noctis 2. Tunc, horriblil sonitu 3. Tunc, apertis caelis 4. Quam magna, quam amara*
Jonas, oratorio for soloists, 5 voices, 2 violins & continuo
5. Cum repleta esset Ninive 6. Jonas autem interioribus navis 7. Justus es, Domine 8. Et imperavit Dominus pisci
Jephte, oratorio for 6 voices & continuo
9. Cum vocasset in proelium 10. Cum autem vicor Jephte 11. Cum vidisset Jephte 12. Plorate colles 13. Plorate, filii Israel
Ruth Holton – soprano Ashley Stafford – soprano Nigel Robson – tenor Mark Tucker – tenor Stephen Charlesworth – baritone Monteverdi Choir Members of the English Baroque Soloists His Majestys Sagbutts and Cornetts John Eliot Gardiner – conductor

Exquisite recordings of these three early 'oratorios' by Carissimi. I put oratorio in scare quotes just in case visions of Handel spring up. Indeed, even comparing Carissimi's works with his, rough (in more ways than one!), contemporary, Stradella, would be mistaken as none of the works here last more than half an hour. Indeed, in his masterful Jepthe, the narrative is essentially one compressed scene from the (paraphrased) Biblical text. Which gives it all a wonderful concentration, making the lament of Jepthe's daughter ('Plorate colles') all the more emotionally crushing. ---Colin Hughes, amazon.com

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