Benedetto Marcello - Il Trionfo della Poesia e della Musica (Marcon) [2000]

CD1 *Tracks 1 – 13*   CD2 *Tracks 1 - 12*   La Musica -Maria Cristina Kiehr La Poesia - Sara Mingardo Il Soprano - Silvia Pozzer Il Contralto - Roberto Balconi Il Tenore - Mario Cecchetti Il Basso - Lorenzo Regazzo   Orchestra Barocca Veneziana conducted by Andrea Marcon Radio broadcast of a performance at the Basilica di San Simpliciano Milan, 16 March 2000.

Michael Burden's edition of Benedetto Marcello's oratorio is another addition to A-R's ever-expanding Baroque series. According to the publisher's web site this music of the four seasons 'has been described as highly poetic, generally mellow, faintly comic'.

The music consists of two sinfonias (one opening each half of the work), three accompanied recitatives reserved for dramatic moments, a few choruses, one duet, and a string of da capo arias introduced by simple recitatives. Certainly, it is not the most fashionable music heard in Venice in 1731. It sounds much more like Vivaldi than like Hasse, but is no less compelling for that. Marcello's strings in the outer two accompanied recitatives must play three- and four-note chords, expressive and individually articulated arpeggios, and sweeping scales. Similarly in the arias and choruses, he provides a rich panoply of string textures and effects, including (in addition to those already mentioned) unisono passages, violins or violas doubling the voice, pizzicato, tremolo, and muted strings. Specific articulation marks include dots, strokes, slurs, and dotted slurs; in two movements Marcello specifies tutte arcate in su over a series of repeated semiquavers. It is all the more important then to be sure that the edition accurately reflects the notation in the source. --- Sandra Mangsen, researchgate.net

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