Handel, Vivaldi - Cantatas and Sonatas (2000)


The Four Nations Ensemble  Andrew Appel, harpsichord & director  Ryan Brown, violin  Loretta O'Sullivan, cello  Matthew White, alto

Here is the second in a unique series in which the music of Handel is compared with and contrasted to that of his contemporary rivals. The differences between Handel and Vivaldi are fascinatingly revealed in Andrew Appel's judicious choice of cantatas and sonatas by both masters. The contesting cantatas are Handel's popular, arcadian Mi palpita il cor, and Vivaldi's rarely heard and extraordinarily virtuosic piece, Qual per ignoto calle. Both feature the remarkable young Canadian alto Matthew White.

The finest of Handel's Violin Sonatas (the familiar D major, Op.1 No.13) is set against three from Vivaldi: his famous version of La Follia for two violins, the magnificent B flat Cello Sonata, and a seldom heard trio sonata for violin, cello and continuo - altogether an entertaining, and
enlightening, Baroque concert. The Four Nations Ensemble's companion disc "The Rivals" was warmly praised by the critics. --- fournations.org

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