

Magdalena Kozena - Ah Mio Cor (2007)

Written by bluesever

Friday, 23 October 2009 15:09 - Last Updated Thursday, 06 February 2014 21:01

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01. Alcina Act 2 - Ah, mio cor 02. Hercules Act 3 - Recit. acc: "Where shall I fly?" 03. Agrippina, HWV 6 Act 2 - Pensieri, voi mi tormentate! 04. Giulio Cesare in Egitto HWV 17 Atto primo - No.12 Aria "Cara speme, questo core tu cominci" 05. Joshua - Original Version - O Had I Jubal's Lyre 06. Ariodante HWV 33 Act 2 - "Scherza infida in grembo al drudo" 07. Theodora (1750) Part 2 - Sinfony - "With darkness deep" (Theodora) - Sc. 2 08. Amadigi di Gaula Act 2 - Desterò dall'empia dite 09. Orlando Act 2 - Ah Stigie larve! ... Vaghe pupille, non piangete, no 10. Ariodante HWV 33 Act 3 - "Dopo notte, atra e funesta" 11. Rinaldo Act 2 - "Lascia ch'io pianga" Magdalena Kožená - mezzo-soprano Francesco Galligioni - cello Stefanie Haegel - oboe Patrick Henrichs - trumpet Venice Baroque Orchestra Andrea Marcon - conductor

Before the release of this disc called Ah! Mio cor!, charismatic mezzo soprano Magdalena Kozená had already made her mark as a Handel singer with her recordings of the composer's Italian cantatas and opera Julius Caesar, but this triumphant 2007 collection of arias affirms her mastery of the German-English composer's music. Featuring selections from the composer's operas and oratorios, this disc is more of a smorgasbord than a balanced meal with one highly expressive and supremely virtuosic aria following another and the only cohesion supplied by the performer. Clear, smooth, and warm, Kozená's voice is light in tone but with plenty of power behind it and more than enough control to guide it. In these 11 arias, Kozená channels her voice into interpretations that fairly explode with passion, despair, bliss, and fury. Given alert and dramatic accompaniments by Andrea Marcon and the Venice Baroque Orchestra, Kozená delivers striking Handel performances that will attract her fans as well as interest mezzo fans who have not yet heard her. Archiv's digital sound is crisp and cool, with the focus entirely on the singer. ---James Leonard, Rovi

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