

Vivaldi - 12 Concertos Op.3 'L'estro armonico' (I Virtuosi di Roma) [1996]

Written by bluesever

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CD1 *L'estro armonico*, Op. 3, Concerto for 4 Violins and Cello No. 1 in D Major, RV 549: 1. I. Allegro — Franco Gulli 3:07 2. II. Largo e spiccato — Franco Gulli 3:47 3. III. Allegro — Franco Gulli 2:26 *L'estro armonico*, Op. 3, Concerto for 2 Violins and Cello No. 2 in G Minor, RV 578: 4. I. Adagio e spiccato - Allegro — Luigi Ferro 4:14 5. II. Largo — Luigi Ferro 2:59 6. III. Allegro — Luigi Ferro 2:31 *L'estro armonico*, Op. 3, Violin Concerto No. 3 in G Major, RV 310: 7. I. Allegro — Franco Gulli 2:25 8. II. Largo — Franco Gulli 2:29 9. III. Allegro — Franco Gulli 2:30 *L'estro armonico*, Op. 3, Concerto for 4 Violins No. 4 in E Minor, RV 550: 10. I. Andante — Franco Gulli 3:19 11. II. Allegro assai — Franco Gulli 2:30 12. III. Allegro — Franco Gulli 2:35

CD2

L'estro armonico, Op. 3, Concerto for 2 Violins No. 5 in A Major, RV 519: 1. I. Allegro 3:04 2. II. Largo 2:18 3. III. Allegro 2:44 *L'estro armonico*, Op. 3, Violin Concerto No. 6 in A Minor, RV 356: 4. I. Allegro — Franco Gulli 3:15 5. II. Largo — Franco Gulli 3:21 6. III. Presto — Franco Gulli 2:43 *L'estro armonico*, Op. 3, Concerto for 4 Violins and Cello No. 7 in F Major, RV 567: 7. I. Andante — Luigi Ferro, Franco Gulli 3:47 8. II. Adagio — Luigi Ferro, Franco Gulli 1:18 9. III. Allegro - Adagio — Luigi Ferro, Franco Gulli 3:45 10. IV. Allegro — Luigi Ferro, Franco Gulli 1:17 *L'estro armonico*, Op. 3, Concerto for 2 Violins No. 8 in A Minor, RV 522: 11. I. Allegro — Franco Gulli 3:49 12. II. Larghetto e spiritoso — Franco Gulli 4:27 13. III. Allegro — Franco Gulli 3:35

CD3

L'estro armonico, Op. 3, Violin Concerto No. 9 in D Major, RV 230: 1. I. Allegro — Luigi Ferro 2:05 2. II. Larghetto — Luigi Ferro 4:27 3. III. Allegro — Luigi Ferro 2:19 *L'estro armonico*, Op. 3, Concerto for 4 Violins and Cello No. 10 in B Minor, RV 580: 4. I. Allegro — Luigi Ferro, Franco Gulli 3:49 5. II. Largo — Luigi Ferro, Franco Gulli 3:16 6. III. Allegro — Luigi Ferro, Franco Gulli 3:17 *L'estro armonico*, Op. 3, Concerto for 2 Violins and Cello No. 11 in D Minor, RV 565: 7. I. Allegro — Luigi Ferro 1:50 8. II. Allegro — Luigi Ferro 3:19 9. III. Largo e spiccato — Luigi Ferro 4:05 10. IV. Allegro — Luigi Ferro 2:39 *L'estro armonico*, Op. 3, Violin Concerto No. 12 in E Major, RV 265: 11. I. Allegro — Luigi Ferro 3:30 12. II. Largo — Luigi Ferro 4:50 13. III. Allegro — Luigi Ferro 2:41

I Virtuosi di Roma: Franco Gulli (Violin) Alberto Poltronieri (Violin) Edmondo Malanotte (Violin) Benedetto Mazzacurati (Cello) Guido Mozzato (Violin) Luigi Ferro (Violin) Mario Benvenuti (Violin) Angelo Stefanato (Violin) Renato Ruotolo (Violin) Renato Fasano – director

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After the iconic 'Le Quattro Stagioni', the collection of 12 violin concertos Op. 3, 'L'Estro Armonico' is the most popular and well known of all of Vivaldi's works. It is vintage Vivaldi: lively, exuberant and brilliant allegros, spun-out cantilenas in Italian 'belcanto' style, and a general feel of Italian passion and good humour. ---prestoclassical.co.uk

The Virtuosi di Roma, under the direction of the late Renato Fasano, was one of two celebrated chamber orchestras that specialized in the music of Vivaldi during the 1950s and early 1960s. The other was I Musici, who are still with us, and still playing Vivaldi. The Roman musicians, however, occupy a closer place in my affections, since it was their concerts at the Royal Festival Hall throughout the late 1950s that introduced me to so much Vivaldi while at the same time giving me indescribable pleasure.

Their recording of L'estro armonico, Vivaldi's Op. 3, was made in 1961 by which time their performances had just, but perhaps only just, passed their peak. Much that is here is first-rate, but it is not consistently so and, as we might expect, there are features of the playing and understanding of the music which sound uncomfortably, indeed unacceptably, dated. Oddly enough, this was not at all the case in their earlier recordings for EMI, all of them in mono and therefore perhaps considered of little interest nowadays. However, several of their finest performances from the mid 1950s were reissued on LP in the Eminence series and it is these which do greatest credit to a fine chamber orchestra. Let us hope that some sympathetic ear at EMI will feel constrained to put these precious items on CD; but meanwhile, this version of L'estro armonico makes a welcome reappearance, above all for the warm lyrical violin playing of Franco Gulli, the soloist in the Sixth Concerto (though, carelessly, not so identified), Edmondo Malanotte and Luigi Ferro. -- Gramophone [1/1997]

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