Antonio Vivaldi - Oboe Sonatas (1993)

01 - Oboe Sonata in C minor, RV 53- I - Adagio
02 - Oboe Sonata in C minor, RV 53- II - Allegro
03 - Oboe Sonata in C minor, RV 53- III - Andante
04 - Oboe Sonata in C minor, RV 53- IV - Allegro
05 - Trio Sonata in G minor (Lund), RV 81- I - Allegro play
06 - Trio Sonata in G minor (Lund), RV 81- II - Largo
07 - Trio Sonata in G minor (Lund), RV 81- III - Allegro
08 - Oboe & Cello Sonata in A major (Il pastor fido), RV 59- I - Preludio- Largo
09 - Oboe & Cello Sonata in A major (Il pastor fido), RV 59- II - Allegro, ma non presto
10 - Oboe & Cello Sonata in A major (Il pastor fido), RV 59- III - Pastorale, ad libitum
11 - Oboe & Cello Sonata in A major (Il pastor fido), RV 59- IV - Allegro
12 - Oboe & Violin Sonata in C, RV 779- I - Andante play
13 - Oboe & Violin Sonata in C, RV 779- II - Allegro
14 - Oboe & Violin Sonata in C, RV 779- III - Largo e cantabile
15 - Oboe & Violin Sonata in C, RV 779- Allegro
16 - Oboe & Cello Sonata in G minor (Il pastor fido), RV 58- I - Vivace
17 - Oboe & Cello Sonata in G minor (Il pastor fido), RV 58- II - Fuga da Capella-Alla breve.
18 - Oboe & Cello Sonata in G minor (Il pastor fido), RV 58- III - Largo
19 - Oboe & Cello Sonata in G minor (Il pastor fido), RV 58- IV - Allegro, ma non presto

Paul Goodwin – baroque oboe
Gail Hennessy, oboe
John Holloway, violin
Colin Lawson, chalumeau
Nigel North, archlute & guitar
Susan Sheppard, violoncello
Frances Eustace, bassoon
John Toll, harpsichord & organ

Though the baroque instruments don't have the depth and richness of their modern counterparts, they have a charm and beauty of their own, and these sonatas are a treat, and a change from the often heard Vivaldi concertos. He wrote over a 100 sonatas, but they don't get performed or recorded often, and in this CD, you get 3 of them played to perfection. The C major sonata RV 779 wasn't discovered until the mid 1970's, and is my favorite of the Vivaldi pieces on this CD. It has a large part for organ (played by John Toll), as well as one for the tenor chalumeau (played by Colin Lawson), which is a single reed instrument related to the early clarinet.

Despite the information given on the amazon CD listings, the A major RV 59 and G minor RV 58, which were once thought to be authored by Vivaldi, are actually the work of Nicolas Chedeville, a Parisian composer and musette player. These are delightful pieces, and match the loveliness of the Vivaldi compositions...in fact, the G minor sonata just might be the choice piece on this CD.

Paul Goodwin is one of the world's great oboe virtuosos...he specializes in repertoire that spans the 17th through the 19th centuries, and he's an expert in period instruments. If you like baroque music, I'm sure you'll enjoy this delightful CD. ---Alejandra Vernon

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