Porpora - Vespri Veneziani 2011

1. Vespro Per La Festività Dell'assunta 2. Laudate Pueri Dominum 3. Salve Regina 4. Laetatus Sum 5. Lauda Jerusalem Marilia Vargas, Soprano Delphine Galou, Alto Michiko Takahashi, Soprano Maîtrise de Bretagne (c: Jean-Michel Noël) Le Parlement de Musique Martin Gester - conductor

Porpora's Vespro per la Festività dell'Assunta for the year 1744 is a set of liturgical music for the feast day of the Blessed Virgin's Assumption into Heaven. The live performance here given in 2011 is not in the complete liturgical setting, but a concert version. The main pieces are there - notably the Salve Regina, the Nisi Dominus, Laudate Jerusalem, and other choral works. The major reason that attracted me to purchase this recording is Delphine Galou's 'Salve Regina'. Having heard Elina Garanca and Sonia Prina in this piece, I prefer Galou's more spiritual, and yet fully dramatic, interpretation of this work.

It turns out that other soloists in this live performance are equally good as Galou, and the instrumental ensemble is nothing short of being spectacular. Porpora, as a composer of sacred music, is fully on par with Antonio Vivaldi. It would be a great thing to record this liturgical piece in full, as a direct comparison to Vivaldi's in the Naive edition. Baroque lovers must not overlook this recent live recording of Porpora's masterpiece. --- Abel, amazon.com

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