

William Boyce – Solomon (1990)

Wpisany przez bluesever

Środa, 18 Sierpień 2010 16:44 - Zmieniony Czwartek, 12 Wrzesień 2013 12:32

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1. *Part 1: Overture*
2. *Part 1: Behold, Jerusalem, behold thy king*
3. *Part 1: From the mountains, lo! he comes*
4. *Part 1: Tell me, lovely shepherd*
5. *Part 1: Fairest of the virgin throng*
6. *Part 1: As the rich apple, on whose boughs*
7. *Part 1: Beneath his ample shade I lay*
8. *Part 1: Who quits the lily's fleecy white*
9. *Part 1: Balmy sweetness, ever flowing*
10. *Part 1: Let not my prince his slave despise / Ah, simple me! my own, more dear*
11. *Part 1: Fair and comely is my love*
12. *Part 1: Forbear, O charming swain, forbear!*
13. *Part 1: Fill with cooling juice the bowl!*
14. *Part 2: Sinfonia*
15. *Part 2: The cheerful spring begins today - Arise, my fair, and come away*
16. *Part 2: Together let us range the fields*
17. *Part 2: How lovely art thou to the sight*
18. *Part 2: Let me, love, thy bole ascending*
19. *Part 2: O, that a sister's specious name*
20. *Part 2: Soft, I adjure you, by the fawns*
21. *Part 2: My fair's a garden of delight*
22. *Part 2: Softly rise, O southern breeze!*
23. *Part 3: Arise, my fair, the doors unfold*
24. *Part 3: Obedient to thy voice I hie*
25. *Part 3: Ye blooming virgins, as ye rove*
26. *Part 3: Who is thy love, O charming maid!*
27. *Part 3: On his face the vernal rose*
28. *Part 3: This, O ye virgins*
29. *Part 3: Sweet nymph, whom ruddier charms adorn*
30. *Part 3: O take me! stamp me on thy breast!*
31. *Part 3: Thou soft invader of the soul! - In vain we trace the globe*

A Serenata by William Boyce was recorded on 18,19,20 September 1989 and includes

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She - Bronwen Mills, soprano,
He - Howard Crook, tenor
and choir and Orchestra of The Parley of Instruments.
Roy Goodman - conductor

The conductor of this disc describes it as "the composer's masterpiece." As I do not know all of Boyce's oeuvre I have no way of judging if he is right, but Solomon certainly is a masterpiece. The text derives from the Song of Solomon, but librettist and composer place it firmly in the then-new tradition of the English Pastoral. There is even a suggestion of the four seasons passing siting the work firmly somewhere between Handel's Acis and Galatea and Haydn's The Seasons.

But that gives no idea of the charm of the music. Boyce always has a gift for melody, but here, drawing on an inspiration that often recalls Purcell, he outdoes himself. The climax of the score is an exquisite painting of summer with baroque bassoon accompanied by shimmering strings.

The performance ought to merit 5 stars, chorus and orchestra are excellent and the conductor's love of the music is obvious. The only slight reservation that I have is the quality of the soloists and in particular the soprano whose voice is alas not the last word in lushness. But the reservation is slight and does not spoil one's enjoyment of a rediscovered masterpiece. ---T. Coleman, amazon.com

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