Vivaldi - Bassoon Concertos, Vol. 1 (1986)

1. Bassoon Concerto, for bassoon, strings & continuo in C major, RV 467~Allegro 2. Bassoon Concerto, for bassoon, strings & continuo in C major, RV 467~Andante 3. Bassoon Concerto, for bassoon, strings & continuo in C major, RV 467~Allegro 4. Bassoon Concerto, for bassoon, strings & continuo in F major, RV 491~Allegro molto 5. Bassoon Concerto, for bassoon, strings & continuo in F major, RV 491~Largo 6. Bassoon Concerto, for bassoon, strings & continuo in F major, RV 491~Allegro 7. Bassoon Concerto, for bassoon, strings & continuo in A minor, RV 500~Allegro 8. Bassoon Concerto, for bassoon, strings & continuo in A minor, RV 500~Largo 9. Bassoon Concerto, for bassoon, strings & continuo in A minor, RV 500~Allegro 10. Bassoon Concerto, for bassoon, strings & continuo in A minor, RV 499~Allegro 11. Bassoon Concerto, for bassoon, strings & continuo in A minor, RV 499~Largo 12. Bassoon Concerto, for bassoon, strings & continuo in A minor, RV 499~Allegro 13. Bassoon Concerto, for bassoon, strings & continuo in C major, RV 466~Allegro 14. Bassoon Concerto, for bassoon, strings & continuo in C major, RV 466~Largo 15. Bassoon Concerto, for bassoon, strings & continuo in C major, RV 466~Allegro 16. Bassoon Concerto, for bassoon, strings & continuo in F major, RV 486~Allegro non molto 17. Bassoon Concerto, for bassoon, strings & continuo in F major, RV 486~Largo 18. Bassoon Concerto, for bassoon, strings & continuo in F major, RV 486~Allegro 19. Bassoon Concerto, for bassoon, strings & continuo in C major, RV 474~Allegro 20. Bassoon Concerto, for bassoon, strings & continuo in C major, RV 474~Largo 21. Bassoon Concerto, for bassoon, strings & continuo in C major, RV 474~Allegro 22. Bassoon Concerto, for bassoon, strings & continuo in F major, RV 487~Allegro 23. Bassoon Concerto, for bassoon, strings & continuo in F major, RV 487~Largo 24. Bassoon Concerto, for bassoon, strings & continuo in F major, RV 487~Allegro
Daniel Smith - Bassoon Thomas Martin - Double Bass English Chamber Orchestra Philip Ledger - Conductor

These are modern instrument performances, of course, but they have a striking family resemblance to the English Concerto discs in their general springiness of step and unmannered liveliness. It rather goes to show that the big question is not so much whether the instruments are "original" or not, as what you do with them. The bassoon has perhaps undergone more

far-reaching changes and if you compare Daniel Smith with the player who concluded the previous disc you will hear that the modern instrument has much more "ping" around its sound and sings out the slow movements in rather fruitier tones. Daniel Smith seems to take the view that the fastest tempos he can do in the quick movements are the right ones, and since his passage work is immaculate, and he still finds time for plenty of very musical phrasing and never for a moment gives the idea he has a train to catch, I think he can be said to have justified his view. Michael McCraw takes more measured tempos in the outer movements of his work, raising the question whether this was an interpretative choice or dictated by the mechanism of the early instrument. If the "original" bassoon makes a weaker sound, it would also be possible to find that it has a sweeter voice in the slow movement, so not everything in the modern instrument is pure gain. — Christopher Howell, danielsmithbassoon.com

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