Vivaldi - Concertos for Anna Maria (Mariana Sirbu) [1980]

Concerto In D Minor For Violin, Strings And Continuo Rv 248 *1. 1. Allegro 2. 2. Largo-Presto 3. 3. Allegro Ma Non Molto*
Concerto In D For Violin, Strings And Continuo Rv 229
4. 1. Allegro 5. 2. Largo 6. 3. Allegro
Concerto In B Flat For Violin, Strings And Continuo Rv 363
7. 1. Allegro 8. 2. Largo 9. 3. Allegro
Concerto In E Flat For Violin, Strings And Continuo Rv 260
10. 1. Allegro 11. 2. Adagio 12. 3. Allegro
Concerto In E Flat For Violin, Strings And Continuo Rv 349
13. 1. Allegro 14. 2. Largo 15. 3. Allegro Ma Poco
Concerto In E Flat For Violin, Strings And Continuo Rv 267
16. 1. Allegro 17. 2. Largo 18. 3. Allegro Ma Poco
Mariana Sirbu (Violin) I Musici

With the number of Vivaldi concerto recordings flooding the market, what is a starter CD-buyer to do? How can he or she make a choice? Perhaps if a reviewer has any function at all, it is to steer the prospective purchaser in the right direction. If you like period instruments, the new disc with Giorgio Sasso might be a candidate for an ideal one-CD Vivaldi choice. The Roman group plays brilliantly, and the selection of works for string orchestra is superb, with two emotional pieces, a Sinfonia in G minor and a Sonata in E flat, Al S Sepulchro (At Christ's Tomb/Burial). The other disc, on modern instruments (but very crisply played), is a series of six works composed for Vivaldi's star pupil at the Pietà, Anna Maria, who performed on violin, viola d'amore, cello, lute, theorbo, mandolin and harpsichord. These are delightful violin concertos, admirably played by Mariana Sirbu and I Musici, one of the pioneers of the Vivaldi revival. ---HC Robbins Landon, classical-music.com

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