

Girolamo Frescobaldi – Canzoni (2004)

Written by bluesever

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1. *Vigesimaquarta a Due Bassi e Canto detta la Nobile*
2. *Ottava a Basso Solo detta l'ambitiosa*
3. *Prima a 4, Canto Alto Tenor Basse Sopra Rugier*
4. *Seconda a Canto Solo detta la Bernardinia*
5. *Undecima a Due Canti detta la Plettenberger*
6. *Prima a 2 Bassi*
7. *Trigesima Quinta detta l'Alessandrina*
8. *Seconda a 2, Canto e Basso*
9. *Terza a 2, Canto e Basso*
10. *Prima a Basso Solo (Sesta detta Laltera)*
11. *Quinta a 4, Canto Alto Tenor Basse*
12. *Decimasettima a Due Bassi detta la Diodata*
13. *Quarta a 4, Due Canti e Due Bassi*
14. *Prima a 2, Canto e Basso*
15. *Quintadecima a 2 Bassi detta la Lieuoratta*
16. *Settima a Basso Solo detta la Superba*
17. *Decimasesta a 2 Bassi detta la Samminiata*
18. *Seconda a 4, Due Canti e Due Bassi*
19. *Quinta a 3, Due Canti e Basso*
20. *Terza a Canto Solo detta la Donatina*
21. *Seconda a 4, Canto Alto Tenor Basse Sopra Romanesca*

Bruno Cocset & Les Basses Réunies

Bruno Cocset, tenor de violon, basse de violon "a la Bastarda" & direction

Emmanuel Jacques, tenor & basse de violon

Emmanuel Balssa, basse de violon

Richard Myron, violone & contrebasse

William Dongois, cornets

Xavier Diaz-Latorre, theorbe

Christina Pluhar, harpe

Luca Guglielmi & Laurent Stewart, clavecin & claviorganum

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This is by far the best intro to Frescobaldi's music I've encountered. Even by Renaissance/early Baroque standards his knotty, intricate compositions are not always the most approachable - though this has partly to do with the difficulties of interpretation. This recording really understands and fleshes out the music. I'm not an expert on Frescobaldi nor have the grammatical knowledge of music to explain exactly why I like this recording, but it's definitely superior to the recording of his Canzoni by Il Viaggio Musicale. I guess you could say it "swings." And the audio quality of the recording is outstanding as well. ---David I. Cahill, amazon.com

Featuring performances of nobility and sensitivity, works of elegance and expressivity, recordings of depth and clarity, and, last but not least, packaging of exemplary beauty, it is impossible to over-recommend this disc. Bruno Cocset -- the terrific young period cellist whose recording of Bach's Cello Suites was in the same league as Casals' and Fournier's -- leads his colleagues and friends of Les Basses Réunies in performances of strength, subtlety, and great dignity. Frescobaldi's Canzoni are landmark works in the emancipation of the instruments whose ease of counterpoint is matched by their grace of melodies. Alpha's recording is warm, rich, honest, real, and true, capturing Les Basses Réunies in an ideal acoustic environment. Alpha's packaging has interesting and informative notes wrapped in a superb if tiny reproduction of The Finding of Romulus and Remus by Faustulus by Pietro Berrittini, a work painted at about the same time that Frescobaldi composed his Canzoni. ---James Leonard, Rovi

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