

Torelli – Complete Trumpet Concertos (2005)

Written by bluesever

Saturday, 18 December 2010 19:57 - Last Updated Friday, 13 July 2018 19:03

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CD1

1. Concerto, for trumpet & strings in D major (Etienne Roger 188): Allegro
2. Concerto, for trumpet & strings in D major (Etienne Roger 188): Adagio
3. Concerto, for trumpet & strings in D major (Etienne Roger 188): Presto
4. Sonata for trumpet, strings & continuo, G. 1: Andante
5. Sonata for trumpet, strings & continuo, G. 1: Allegro
6. Sonata for trumpet, strings & continuo, G. 1: Grave
7. Sonata for trumpet, strings & continuo, G. 1: Allegro
8. Sinfonia for trumpet, strings & continuo in D major ('Trumpet Concerto'), G. 2: Allegro
9. Sinfonia for trumpet, strings & continuo in D major ('Trumpet Concerto'), G. 2: Grave
10. Sinfonia for trumpet, strings & continuo in D major ('Trumpet Concerto'), G. 2: Allegro
11. Sinfonia for trumpet, strings & continuo, G. 3: Adagio
12. Sinfonia for trumpet, strings & continuo, G. 3: Grave/Allegro
13. Sinfonia for trumpet, strings & continuo, G. 3: Allegro
14. Sinfonia a 4, for trumpets, violins & continuo, G. 4: Presto
15. Sinfonia a 4, for trumpets, violins & continuo, G. 4: Adagio e spiccato/Presto
16. Sinfonia a 4, for trumpets, violins & continuo, G. 4: Allegro
17. Sonata a 5, for trumpet, strings & continuo, G. 5: Adagio
18. Sonata a 5, for trumpet, strings & continuo, G. 5: Allegro e staccato
19. Sonata a 5, for trumpet, strings & continuo, G. 5: Adagio
20. Sonata a 5, for trumpet, strings & continuo, G. 5: Allegro
21. Sonata a 5, for trumpet, strings & continuo, G. 6: Vivace
22. Sonata a 5, for trumpet, strings & continuo, G. 6: Adagio/Largo
23. Sonata a 5, for trumpet, strings & continuo, G. 6: Allegro come stà
24. Sonata a 5, for trumpet, strings & continuo in D major, G. 7: Grave/Allegro
25. Sonata a 5, for trumpet, strings & continuo in D major, G. 7: Grave
26. Sonata a 5, for trumpet, strings & continuo in D major, G. 7: Allegro
27. Sonata a 5, for trumpet, strings & continuo in D major, G. 7: Grave
28. Sonata a 5, for trumpet, strings & continuo in D major, G. 7: Allegro
29. Sinfonia for trumpet, strings & continuo, G. 8: Allegro
30. Sinfonia for trumpet, strings & continuo, G. 8: Adagio
31. Sinfonia for trumpet, strings & continuo, G. 8: Allegro
32. Sinfonia for trumpet, strings & continuo, G. 8: Allegro
33. Sinfonia for trumpet, strings & continuo in D major, G. 9: Allegro [play](#)

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34. *Sinfonia for trumpet, strings & continuo in D major, G. 9: Prestissimo/Adagio*
35. *Sinfonia for trumpet, strings & continuo in D major, G. 9: Allegro*
36. *Sinfonia for trumpet, strings & continuo in D major, G. 10: Allegro*
37. *Sinfonia for trumpet, strings & continuo in D major, G. 10: Presto/Adagio*
38. *Sinfonia for trumpet, strings & continuo in D major, G. 10: Allegro*
39. *Sinfonia for trumpet, strings & continuo in D major, G. 10: Adagio/Allegro* [play](#)

CD2

1. *Sonata a 5 for trumpet, strings & continuo, G. 11: Allegro*
2. *Sonata a 5 for trumpet, strings & continuo, G. 11: Presto/Adagio*
3. *Sonata a 5 for trumpet, strings & continuo, G. 11: Allegro*
4. *Sonata a 5 for trumpet, strings & continuo in D major, G. 13: Allegro*
5. *Sonata a 5 for trumpet, strings & continuo in D major, G. 13: Largo/Allegro/Largo*
6. *Sonata a 5 for trumpet, strings & continuo in D major, G. 13: Allegro*
7. *Sinfonia before an opera, for trumpet, strings & continuo, G. 14: Allegro*
8. *Sinfonia before an opera, for trumpet, strings & continuo, G. 14: Largo e spicco*
9. *Sinfonia before an opera, for trumpet, strings & continuo, G. 14: Allegro*
10. *Sonata a 5, for 2 trumpets, violins & continuo, G. 15: Presto*
11. *Sonata a 5, for 2 trumpets, violins & continuo, G. 15: Adagio/Presto*
12. *Sonata a 5, for 2 trumpets, violins & continuo, G. 15: Allegro*
13. *Sinfonia for trumpets, violins & continuo, G. 16: Allegro*
14. *Sinfonia for trumpets, violins & continuo, G. 16: Grave/Allegro*
15. *Sinfonia for trumpets, violins & continuo, G. 16: Allegro*
16. *Concerto for 2 trumpets, strings & continuo in D major, G. 18: Largo assai*
17. *Concerto for 2 trumpets, strings & continuo in D major, G. 18: Allegro* [play](#)
18. *Concerto for 2 trumpets, strings & continuo in D major, G. 18: Adagio e staccato*
19. *Concerto for 2 trumpets, strings & continuo in D major, G. 18: Allegro*
20. *Sinfonia for 2 trumpets, strings & continuo, G. 20: Allegro*
21. *Sinfonia for 2 trumpets, strings & continuo, G. 20: Adagio/Largo e staccato*
22. *Sinfonia for 2 trumpets, strings & continuo, G. 20: Allegro*
23. *Sinfonia for 2 trumpets, strings & continuo, G. 20: Allegro*
24. *Sinfonia for 2 trumpets, strings & continuo, G. 21: Presto*
25. *Sinfonia for 2 trumpets, strings & continuo, G. 21: Adagio e staccato/Allegro staccato e piano*
26. *Sinfonia for 2 trumpets, strings & continuo, G. 21: Allegro*
27. *Sinfonia for 2 trumpets, strings & continuo, G. 22: Vivace e staccato*
28. *Sinfonia for 2 trumpets, strings & continuo, G. 22: Largo e staccato/Vivace/Grave*
29. *Sinfonia for 2 trumpets, strings & continuo, G. 22: Allegro*
30. *Sinfonia for 2 trumpets, strings & continuo in D major, G. 23: Allegro* [play](#)
31. *Sinfonia for 2 trumpets, strings & continuo in D major, G. 23: Largo/Allegro*
32. *Sinfonia for 2 trumpets, strings & continuo in D major, G. 23: Vivace*
33. *Concerto for 2 trumpets, strings & continuo in D major, G. 24: Allegro*
34. *Concerto for 2 trumpets, strings & continuo in D major, G. 24: Largo e staccato/Presto*
35. *Concerto for 2 trumpets, strings & continuo in D major, G. 24: Allegro*

Thomas Hammes (trumpet) Peter Leiner (trumpet 2)

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European Chamber Soloists
Nicol Matt (conductor)

Torelli was born in Verona but studied composition in Bologna under Perti whilst becoming an orchestral string player. He composed concertos fairly extensively in various forms using titles such as 'sinfonia', 'concerto' and 'sonata' rather arbitrarily. The above listing may look confusing but essentially here we have nineteen trumpet concerti and three for two trumpets, generally with strings and harpsichord accompaniment.

The format is quite varied and these works have three, four or five movements. Notably, the Sinfonia G.11 has a middle (of three) movements lasting thirty seconds marked "presto/adagio" and there is precisely fifteen seconds at each tempo. The Sinfonia in D G.23 is perhaps the most striking work and also one of the more substantial at over six minutes! The two discs of just under 100 minutes have no less than 74 tracks, the longest of which fails to break the two and half minute barrier. Whilst such "minimalism" precludes major substance, these are attractive works which are full of invention and which are grateful for the solo instruments.

Apart from the prevailing importance of the trumpet in Bologna in the late 17th century, it is unclear to me why (or for whom) Torelli composed so much for the trumpet. Nevertheless there is no doubting his importance in this respect and these works seems to have done more than his other compositions to assure him a place in musical history.

In performance terms these are appropriately small-scale (there are about ten orchestral players in total) and based on modern instruments. Thomas Hammes is a young orchestral trumpeter currently with the SWR Radio Symphony Orchestra in Stuttgart and he plays with relish and fine control. Torelli's demands are variably onerous and presumably reflect some instrumental limitations of the time. The orchestral playing is refined and spirited under another young artist, Nicol Matt, who chooses not to direct from the harpsichord. The recorded sound is bright and admirably balanced.

The documentation consists of a rather woolly essay by Matthieu Kuttler which suffers from an unidiomatic English translation. The soloists and conductor are given brief biographies in English (only) while the orchestra is described in German (only); presumably this was not

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intentional. Also, the composer Giacomo Antonio Perti is incorrectly given as “Petri” in the booklet.

Despite the vagaries of the documentation, at “Brilliant” (i.e. superbargain) price this set is excellent value. A highly recommendable way of exploring some worthwhile late 17th century music. It deserves the attention of anyone interested in the development of the trumpet.

---Patrick C Waller, musicweb-international.com

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