

## Michael Chance - The Art of Counter Tenor (1999)

Written by bluesever

Saturday, 30 January 2016 17:16 -

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Cd1 George Frideric Handel (1685 - 1759) 1. *Semele - Hymen, haste, thy torch prepare* 2. *Semele - Your tuneful voice my tale would tell* 3. *Semele - Despair no more shall wound me* 4. *Messiah - But who may abide the day of his coming* 5. *Messiah - Thou art gone up on high*  
Heinrich Schütz (1585 - 1672)  
6. *Motet - Auf dem Gebirge hat man ein Geschrei gehöret*  
Johann Sebastian Bach (1685 - 1750)  
7. *Mass In B minor - Kyrie No. 1: Gloria - Qui sedes ad dexteram Patris* 8. *Mass In B minor - Kyrie No. 1: Agnus Dei - Agnus Dei* 9. *St. Matthew Passion - Erbarme dich* 10. *St. Matthew Passion - Sehst, Jesus hat die Hand - Wohin?* 11. *St. John Passion - Von den Stricken meiner Sünden* 12. *St. John Passion - Es ist vollbracht* 13. *Cantata BWV 147 "Herz und Mund und Tat und Leben" - Schäume dich, o Seele nicht* 14. *Cantata, BWV 198 "Laß Fürstin, laß noch einen Strahl" - Wie starb die Heldin so vergnügt* 15. *Cantata, BWV 106 "Gottes Zeit ist die allerbeste Zeit" - In deine Hände befehl ich meinen Geist*  
Henry Purcell (1659 - 1695)  
16. *Come, ye sons of art, away (1694) Ode for the Birthday of Queen Mary II - Sound the trumpet, sound* 17. *Of old, when heroes thought it base (1690) The Yorkshire Feast Song - The pale and the purple rose* 18. *Of old, when heroes thought it base (1690) The Yorkshire Feast Song - Sound, trumpets, sound!*  
Michael Chance - Counter Tenor English Chamber Orchestra John Nelson - conductor (1-3) His Majesties Sagbutts and Cornetts (6) Ashley Stafford - Counter Tenor (6) Valerie Botwright - Double Bass (6) Sophia McKenna - Oboe d'amore (7) Monteverdi Choir (9-10) Anthony Robson, Valerie Darke - Oboe (11) Anthony Robson - Oboe d'amore (13) Richard Campbell - Viola da gamba (12) Timothy Wilson - Counter Tenor (16) The English Baroque Soloists John Eliot Gardiner - conductor (6-15) Timothy Wilson - Counter Tenor (16) The English Concert Trevor Pinnock - conductor (4-5, 16-18) Cd2 Antonio Vivaldi (1678 - 1741)  
1. *Nisi Dominus - Nisi Dominus* 2. *Nisi Dominus - Vanum est vobis* 3. *Nisi Dominus - Surgite* 4. *Nisi Dominus - Cum dederit* 5. *Nisi Dominus - Sicut sagittae* 6. *Nisi Dominus - Beatus vir* 7. *Nisi Dominus - Gloria patri* 8. *Nisi Dominus - Sicut erat in principio* 9. *Nisi Dominus - Amen* 10. *Stabat Mater - Stabat Mater* 11. *Stabat Mater - Cuius animam* 12. *Stabat Mater - O quam tristis* 13. *Stabat Mater - Quis est homo* 14. *Stabat Mater - Quis non posset* 15. *Stabat Mater - Pro peccatis* 16. *Stabat Mater - Eja Mater* 17. *Stabat Mater - Fac ut ardeat* 18. *Stabat Mater - Amen* 19. *Salve Regina - Salve Regina* 20. *Salve Regina - Ad te clamamus* 21. *Salve Regina - Ad te suspiramus* 22. *Salve Regina - Eja ergo* 23. *Salve Regina - Et Jesum* 24. *Salve Regina - O Clemens*

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Michael Chance is a leading British countertenor, in worldwide demand for male alto parts in opera, and as a recital, concert, and recording artist. He was a choral scholar at King's College, Cambridge, an adult-voice singer at the famous Choir of King's College Cambridge, receiving a full scholarship for singing daily services in the College Chapel during the school term. His major subject at Cambridge was English, but he received thorough musical and vocal training as a matter of course as a choral scholar.

After graduation, he studied voice with Rupert Bruce Lockhart. His operatic debut was in the Buxton festival, where he sang the part of Apollo in Ronald Eyre's production of Cavalli's *Giasone* in 1983. He was a member of Kent Opera for three seasons. In 1985, his European debut was in Lyon, as Andronico in Handel's *Tamerlano* (1985).

He rapidly established a strong reputation. He is one of the newer sort of countertenor, whose vocal production is well supported and natural-sounding. As the bulk of the countertenor repertory is in Baroque opera, he has sung Tolomeo in Handel's *Giulio Cesare*, Ottone in Handel's *Agrippina* and Monteverdi's *L'incoronazione di Poppea*, and as Orpheus in both the Gluck and Monteverdi operas.

However, he is equally admired for his performances in newer operas featuring countertenors, and his roles in 20th century opera include Oberon in Britten's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, the Voice of Apollo in the same composer's *Death in Venice*, the Military Governor in Judith Weir's *A Night at the Chinese Opera*, and in Harrison Birtwistle's *The Second Mrs. Kong*. The latter two parts were written for him, for he is active in promoting new works. Composers he has worked with include Alexander Goehr, Richard Rodney Bennett, John Tavener, Anthony Powers, Tan Dun, and Elvis Costello.

He has sung at major opera houses such as the Teatro Colón in Buenos Aires, La Scala of Milan, at Covent Garden in London, and in opera houses in New York, Paris, Amsterdam, Lisbon, and Sydney.

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Chance has made numerous recordings, including the Grammy Award-winning release of Handel's Semele with John Nelson conducting. Other recordings include Mozart's Ascanio in Alba, Goehr's The Death of Moses, and Rolf's Carmina Burana as well as the major oratorios and choral works of Handel and Bach. He appears in major festivals, such as the Glyndebourne Summer Opera, the Edinburgh Festival, the Salzburg Festival, and the Aix-en-Provence Festival. His concert appearances have taken him to major cities of Europe, the United Kingdom, North America, Japan, and Australia.

As a chamber recitalist he often works with the Baroque viol ensemble Fretwork, with Trevor Pinnock and the English Concert, and Paul Beier. His programs can range from Renaissance lute songs to newly commissioned music. ---Joseph Stevenson, Rovi

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