Tomaso Albinoni – 12 Concerti Op. 7 (Holliger) [2007]



CD 1 1. Concerto no.1 in D major for strings and continuo: (Allegro) 2. Concerto no.1 in D major for strings and continuo: Adagio e staccato 3. Concerto no.1 in D major for strings and continuo: Allegro assai 4. Concerto no.2 in C major for 2 oboes, strings and continuo: Allegro 5. Concerto no.2 in C major for 2 oboes, strings and continuo: Adagio 6. Concerto no.2 in C major for 2 oboes, strings and continuo: Allegro 7. Concerto no.3 in B flat major for oboe, strings and continuo: Allegro 8. Concerto no.3 in B flat major for oboe, strings and continuo: Adagio 9. Concerto no.3 in B flat major for oboe, strings and continuo: Allegro no.4 in G major for strings and continuo: Allegro 11. Concerto no.4 in G major for strings and continuo: Adagio 12. Concerto no.4 in G major for strings and continuo: Allegro Concerto no.5 in C major for 2 oboes, strings and continuo: (Allegro) 14. Concerto no.5 in C major for 2 oboes, strings and continuo: Adagio 15. Concerto no.5 in C major for 2 oboes, strings and continuo: Allegro 16. Concerto no.6 in D major for oboe, strings and continuo: 17. Concerto no.6 in D major for oboe, strings and continuo: Adagio no.6 in D major for oboe, strings and continuo: Allegro 19. Concerto no.7 in A major for strings and continuo: (Allegro) 20. Concerto no.7 in A major for strings and continuo: Adagio Concerto no.7 in A major for strings and continuo: Allegro 22. Concerto no.8 in D major for 2 oboes, strings and continuo: (Allegro) 23. Concerto no.8 in D major for 2 oboes, strings and continuo: Largo 24. Concerto no.8 in D major for 2 oboes, strings and continuo: Allegro CD₂

1. Concerto no.9 in F major for oboe, strings and continuo: Allegro 2. Concerto no.9 in F major for oboe, strings and continuo: Adagio 3. Concerto no.9 in F major for oboe, strings and continuo: Allegro 4. Concerto no.10 in B flat major for strings and continuo: Allegro 5. Concerto no.10 in B flat major for strings and continuo: Adagio 6. Concerto no.10 in B flat major for strings and continuo: Allegro 7. Concerto no.11 in C major for 2 oboes, strings and continuo: Allegro 8. Concerto no.11 in C major for 2 oboes, strings and continuo: Adagio 9. Concerto no.11 in C major for 2 oboes, strings and continuo: Allegro 10. Concerto no.12 in C major for oboe, strings and continuo: Allegro 11. Concerto no.12 in C major for oboe, strings and continuo: Adagio 12. Concerto no.12 in C major for oboe, strings and continuo: Allegro 13. Sonata a 5 in G minor, op.2 no.6: Adagio 14. Sonata a 5 in G minor, op.2 no.6: Allegro 15. Sonata a 5 in G minor, op.2 no.6: Grave 16. Sonata a 5 in G minor, op.2 no.6: Allegro 18. Sonata a 5 in D major, op.2 no.5: Allegro 17. Sonata a 5 in D major, op.2 no.5: Grave 19. Sonata a 5 in D major, op.2 no.5: Adagio 20. Sonata a 5 in D major, op.2 no.5: Allegro Heinz Holliger - oboe Maurice Bourgue - oboe Luciano Vicari (Viola) Claudio Buccarella [Violin] (Violin) Federico Agostini (Violin) Francesco Strano (Cello) Massimo Paris (Viola)

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Maria Teresa Garatti (Harpsichord) I Musici (Ensemble)

Interestingly, this set from the early 1990s remains one of only two collections of Albinoni's Op. 7 concertos available complete in one package. (The other is from 1999, performed by the Berlin Chamber Orchestra, also on Philips.) Not that most listeners will feel a great need to own all 12 of these very expertly written concertos, full of catchy tunes (à la Handel), buoyant rhythms, pensive slow movements, engaging solo parts, and, well, most everything an Italian Baroque concerto grosso should have. It's just that there's not a lot of variety--that next level of ingenuity (again, as in Handel's works in the genre) that would take these very accomplished concertos beyond their intended purpose as functional entertainment.

Nevertheless, I Musici, along with top-notch oboe soloists Heinz Holliger and Maurice Bourgue, delivers performances as sonorous and stylish as you'll hear from one of the world's best modern-instrument ensembles, and the sound is fine if a bit on the bright side. Baroque oboe fans will enjoy this, of course, as will anyone who appreciates the mostly sunny demeanor and ear-pleasing sounds of early-18th-century Italian orchestral music. (And speaking of Handel, I Musici's excellent but previously out-of-print set of Op. 6 concertos, recorded around the same time as this Albinoni collection, is available again through Arkivmusic.com's "on demand" service.) ---David Vernier, ClassicsToday.com

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