

Jose Carreras – Ave Maria (1984)

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01 Messiah, oratorio, HWV 56- Hallelujah. 02 Panis Angelicus for tenor, organ, harp, cello & double-bass. 03 Pietà, Signore (Agnus Dei), aria di chiesa (spurious, by Niedermeyer or Fétis). 04 Pregária, for voice & piano-orchestra. 05 Deutsche Messe for mixed chorus, wind ensemble & organ, D. 872- Heilig, heilig, heilig. 06 Ave Maria (after Bach). 07 Agnus Dei, (Intermezzo from L'arlésienne Suite No. 2-6, arranged by Ernest Guirard). 08 Sacred Pieces (4), for chorus & orchestra (Quattro pezzi sacri)- Laudi alla vergine Maria. 09 Repentir for voice & piano (or orchestra or organ). 10 Cantata No. 147, 'Herz und Mund und Tat und Leben' BWV 147- Jesus bleibet meine Freude. Jose Carreras – tenor Michael G. Gormley – organ Vienna Boys'Chor Wiener Symphoniker Uwe Christian Harrer – conductor

Religious solos and choral pieces from two centuries and at least four countries make up the ten works on this disc. The Ave Maria of the disc title is Gounod's meditation on Bach's first Prelude from the 48, and its lyrical style is typical of the programme's content. The "Hallelujah" Chorus from Handel's Messiah is the only declamatory item, yet there is as much energy as beauty in the singing throughout by José Carreras and the Vienna Boys Choir (joined by 'old boys' of the Chorus Viennensis in two choruses). Compact Disc quality is excellent and the balance of choir and orchestra in fairly reverberant surroundings is just about right, with the tenor rather closer. -- John Borwick, Gramophone [8/1984], arkivmusic.com

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