Written by bluesever Friday, 23 October 2009 12:29 - Last Updated Wednesday, 22 January 2014 11:31

## Kathleen Battle & Wynton Marsalis – Baroque Duet (1992)



1. Let The Bright Seraphim 2. No 1: Si Suoni La Tromba 3. No. 3: Con Voce Festiva 4. No. 4: Rompe Sprezza 5. No. 6: Mio Tesoro Per Te Moro (Aria In Forma Di Menuet Alla Francese) 6. I. Sinfonia. Grave 7. II. Recitativo 8. III. Sinfonia-Aria 9. IV. Recitativo 10. V. Aria. Largo 11. VI. Aria. Poco Mosso, Sempre Dolce E Leggiero-Ritornello 12. VII. Recitativo 13. VIII. Aria-Sinfonia. Grave (Da Capo) 14. Eternal Source Of Light Divine 15. Pace Una Volta 16. I. Spiritosa, E Staccata 17. II. (Allegretto-Corrente) 18. III. Canzone 19. IV. (Allegro) 20. Seufzer, Tranen, Kummer, Not 21. Alle Voci Del Bronzo Guerriero 22. I. Aria: Jauchzet Gott In Allen Landen 23. IV. Chorale: Sei Lob Und Preis Mit Ehren; Alleluja Kathleen Battle (Soprano) Wynton Marsalis (Trumpet) John Feeney (Double Bass) Anthony Newman (Harpsichord) Daire Fitzgerald (Cello)

I had been a huge fan of both Kathleen Battle and Wynton Marsalis for many years, when I had the good fortune to see a PBS tv documentary on the making of this album. I was playing this album literally 3-4 times daily, so it was a delight to see the artistry and passion they brought to the recording. Not only do you see the artists working with great joy and humor in the studio, you also get to see Kathleen Battle give a recital concert in her hometown church in Ohio, singing the roof off! Talk about a homecoming....

The album opens with a technically stunning rendition of Handel's LET THE BRIGHT SERAPHIM, which displays Battle's great coloratura. Wynton Marsalis is a gorgeous match for her silvery top notes and crystal-clear diction. She is unmatched in her ability to bring out every glorious syllable. The most beatiful piece on the entire album, and it's not easy to choose just one, has to be ETERNAL SOURCE OF LIGHT. You will literally think you're surrounded by celestial light, her singing is that gorgeous. Again, Marsalis' trumpet is perfectly matched to her voice.

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They really outdo themselves in the Scarlatti material; especially in the 7 arie con tromba sola (my favorites being SI SUONI LA TROMBA and MIO TESORO PER TE MORO) and SU LE SPONDE DEL TEBRO, which features gorgeous harpsichord....Stupenda.

It would be truly amazing if Battle and Marsalis would collaborate again. This is one of the most beautiful duet albums in any genre you'll ever hear. Bravo!!!! ---Eric McCalla, amazon.com

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