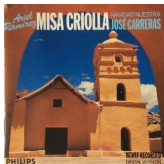


Ramirez: Misa Criolla - Navidad Nuestra - Navidad en Verano (Carreras) (1988)

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Misa Criolla 1 *Kyrie (Vidala-Babualla)* 3:49 2 *Gloria (Carnavalito-Yaraví)* 6:58 3 *Credo (Chacarera Trunca)* 3:24 4 *Sanctus (Carnaval Cochabambino)* 2:14 5 *Agnus Dei (Estilo Pampeano)* 4:11 6 *Navidad En Verano* 4:51 *Navidad Nuestra* 7 *La Anunciación (Chamamé)* 2:06 8 *La Peregrinación (Huella Pampeana)* 2:48 9 *El Nacimiento (Vidala Catamarqueña)* 3:54 10 *Los Pastores (Chaya Riojana)* 2:31 11 *Los Reyes Magos (Takirari)* 2:18 12 *La Huida (Vidala Tucumana)* 3:53
Accordion – Raúl Barboza Chorus – Coral Salvé De Laredo, Sociedad Coral De Bilbao Chorus Master – Gorca Sierra, José Luis Ocejo Conductor – Damián Sanchez (tracks: 6-12), José Luis Ocejo (tracks: 1-5) Guitar – Lalo Gutierrez Percussion – Domingo Cura, Jorge Padín Piano, Harpsichord – Ariel Ramirez Vocals – José Carreras

The choice for "Misa Criolla" and "Navidad Nuestra" CDs between the Carreras and original versions is very easy. If you appreciate beautiful singing then this Jose Carreras version is the ONLY choice. His delicate, exquisite, light, artistic singing is as lovely as you will find. If your taste is to pop or folk music, then you will prefer the original 1964 version which has the merit of a more pronounced forward recording of the instruments and choir giving an overall clearer and stronger and more articulated role for the instruments adding excitement and presence. Also the words are more clearly articulated by the singers in this version. The Carreras version places the choirs and instruments farther from the mics thereby emphasizing the soloist. The most beautiful and melodic of the pieces is clearly "El Nacimiento" (the birth) in "Navidad" and here the Carreras rendition is far, far, far more satisfactory and indeed his singing of this is one of the most gorgeous Christmas recordings I have ever heard. The original recording rushes this piece (being 2:54 compared to the Carreras' 3:54) and fails altogether to capture its beauty and message.

One complaint about both CDs is the failure to include both the Spanish text and an English translation of "Navidad". Not only is this omission inexcusable so that the listener can know exactly WHAT is being sung, for after all these are SONGS, meaning the words are very

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significant and important and an integral part of the piece and often the words are not comprehensible, but the "Navidad" text was written by the poet Feliz Luna whose contributions deserve to be listed and more fully recognized and acknowledged. ---David S. Baumgartner, amazon.com

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