

CD REVIEW 90

CHEN REISS

LIAISONS

Arias by Mozart, Haydn, Cimarosa and Salieri.

Chen Reiss (soprano). L'Arte del mondo, Werner Ehrardt
ONYX CLASSICS ONYX4068 (55.48)



SALIERI Tremo bel'idol mio (Armida)

MOZART Giunse alfin il momento... (The Marriage of Figaro)..
Vox avete un cor fedele K217

CIMAROSA Sinfonia (The Secret Marriage)
Perdonate signor mio (The Secret Marriage)

HAYDN Quando la rosa
Signor, voi sapete
Vada adagio, Signorina

SALIERI Sinfonia (La scuola de' gelosi)

MOZART Una donna a quindici anni (Cosi fan tutte)
Chi sa, chi sa, quai sia K582
Un moto di gioia K579
Ah se in ciel, benigne stelle K538

What a voice with stunning clarity of top notes, florid and impeccable melismata, impressive tessituras and a wonderful grasp of the styles of these diverse items.

The recital opens with a tremendous aria by Salieri, arguably the best item on this CD and it further proves that Salieri was a greater composer than Mozart but he has been maligned. Mozart's father hated him because he was always chosen for prodigious posts and at Wolfgang's expense. The reason is that Salieri was a better composer and his operas have more interest.

The Mozart items on this disc are good but his music seems more predicable than Salieri and I am not the only one to say that Salieri has a more original voice than Mozart. However, to listen to Mozart arias you can do no better than Julianne Banse.

This is not meant in any way to discredit Mozart or the excellent singer on this disc.

The other revelatory item on this CD was the Sinfonia by Cimarosa played with great attack and fascinating excitement by the orchestra. The following Cimarosa aria is very refreshing and infectious. It is to be regretted that Cimarosa does not receive the attention he deserves. This aria has everything from humour to lyricism and a controlled sense of drama. A real gem.

There is often a warmth about Haydn arias coupled with a serenity. His songs are often therapeutic and comforting. Signor, voi spete is exquisite.

As to the recording, while it is good, it sometimes makes the singer appear to be a trifle shrill in sound

but not in intonation. It is occasionally a little too high octane. She is a superb musician. She is so good you have to listen to her.

A Sinfonia by Salieri is very attractive and played with real enthusiasm.

The CD ends with four works by Mozart showing how well Reiss can project her voice with skill and precision.

This CD won a Gold Award from the French magazine Diapason.

She has worked with fine conductors such as Ivor Bolton, Rafael Fuhbeck de Burgos, Daniele Gatti, Daniel Harding, Manfred Honeck, Janowski, Paavo Jarvi, James Levine, Zubin Mehta and Daniel Runnicles. She has also appeared with Barenboim and Rattle.

Her repertoire is extensive from Bach to Villa Lobos, Carmen to Richard Strauss, Carmina Burana, Mahler 2, 4 and 8, Mendlesohn, including Elijah, and less worthy roles by Johann Strauss, Weill and Sondheim.

For lovers of opera, song and the voice this CD is for you.

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