

pressquotes

ENSEMBLE MATHEUS

Ensemble Matheus & Philippe Jaroussky / 'Farinelli' programme

"[Jaroussky] is "Singer of the Year" and he fulfilled his role as superstar of the high falsetto in an impressive way with coloratura and tender lyric singing carried along and supported by the brilliant Ensemble Matheus under the direction of Jean-Christophe Spinosi."

Ruhr Nachrichten, June 2009

Vivaldi *la fida ninfa* / Naïve

"One aria of scorching invention follows another, often bedecked with nimbly illustrative orchestral finery. An aria addressed to gentle breezes? The orchestra whispers, just above the level audibility. An aria hinged on the metaphor of a serpent? Bring on fast-curling, encircling strings. In the hands of Jean-Christophe Spinosi's bubbly Ensemble Matheus, every effect hits home, uncrippled by arch mannerisms of rhythm or tone...In the hands of Spinosi's crack team, *La fida ninfa* is a spectacular baroque rediscovery, and resistance is pointless."

The Times, June 2009

"This excellent [recording of *La Fida Ninfa*] is the first to include all the music, to retain all the vocal roles at their intended pitches and to realise, often irresistibly, the pastoral charm of Vivaldi's music. There are several outstandingly effective numbers of which, the most precious jewel is the vitally motivated wheel of fortune trio which concludes Act I. Altogether a splendid achievement by Jean-Christophe Spinosi and his musicians."

BBC Music Magazine, Music Choice, 5 stars, March 2009

"The most constant joy of the disc is to be found in Jean-Christophe Spinosi's conducting, always emotionally powerful, and ever full of surprising details and wonderfully infectious energy."

Classic FM Magazine, March 2009

Mozart *Così fan tutte*

"...the performance of 'Così fan tutte' was nothing less than a dream... a splendid band, the Ensemble Matheus, received one ovation after another. Spinosi wedded the rhythms of the 18th century with the blossoming sounds of the 19th century and the sovereignty of contemporary lovers – an absolute dream."

Süddeutsche Abendzeitung, November 2008

"Spinosi and his fabulous period orchestra, unforgettably named Matheus, gave the music all that it required. Sometimes eccentric, other times cheeky, then sentimental and austere once again – Spinosi stubbornly avoided the established pomp and circumstance of the Mozart which the older members of the audience may have preferred to hear, with leaps and bounds à la Bernstein."

Munich Abendzeitung, November 2008

Vivaldi *Nisi Dominus* / Philippe Jaroussky / Naïve

"Jean-Christophe Spinosi directs Ensemble Matheus with brio and style."

Financial Times, April 2008

pressquotes

"...Jaroussky's expressive delicacy is beguiling and he is everywhere accompanied with acute sensibility by Ensemble Matheus."

BBC Music Magazine, April 2008

"The period-instrument Ensemble Matheus here numbers 20 string players... The playing is both eloquent and sprightly, and Jean-Christophe Spinosi directs the performances with fine feeling for Vivaldi's colour and textures..."

International Record Review, March 2008

Jean-Christophe Spinosi / Jennifer Larmore / Ensemble Matheus

"George Frideric Handel doesn't usually come across as particularly sexy. Stately, sure. Dignified, without a doubt. But in a fast-paced, edge-of-the-seat concert...mezzo Jennifer Larmore and the Ensemble Matheus brushed the dust off Handel and showed that there's more furious, passionate life in baroque music than you might suspect."

The Washington Post, February 2008

"...the Ensemble Matheus was no mere backup orchestra. Its members may be renowned for their intensive scholarship, but there was nothing prissy or academic about their playing, which was aggressive, vibrant and focused to an absolutely electrifying pitch."

The New York Sun, February 2008

Vivaldi *Heroes* / Virgin Classics

"... exquisite playing from the Ensemble Matheus under Jean-Christophe Spinosi."

The Guardian, January 2007

Vivaldi *Griselda* / Naïve

"The Ensemble Matheus under Jean-Christophe Spinosi develop palpable tension in this swirling baroque opera."

The Times, September 2006

"The Ensemble Matheus plays with supercharged energy, but also with precision, vibrant colours and elegant articulation."

The Times, September 2006

"This performance is sublime. Jean-Christophe Spinosi leads a dramatically taut reading, with his period-instrument Ensemble Matheus underpinning the vocal theatrics with snap and a huge range of dynamics all its own. ... a feast for the ears."

Classics Today, November 2006

"Young French violinist and conductor Jean-Christophe Spinosi sets his Ensemble Matheus on this exuberant music, stimulating a sumptuous delivery."

La Croix, September 2006

Vivaldi *L'Orlando Furioso* / Naïve

"Spinosi and his excellent team of musicians have revised history's judgement of Orlando Furioso by their compelling presentation."

Opera Award Winner, BBC Music Awards 2006

intermusica

Crystal Wharf, 36 Graham Street, London N1 8GJ
Tel: 020 7608 9900 Fax: 020 7490 3263
mail@intermusica.co.uk www.intermusica.co.uk

pressquotes

"Spinosi sets a cracking pace and his fine Ensemble Matheus play with fierce commitment. Stylish and scintillating, this is high Baroque as thrilling as it comes."

Classical CD of the Week, The Observer, January 2005

"Jean-Christophe Spinosi heads his Ensemble Matheus into the battle. Contrasts, nuances, vitality, theatricality - what music!"

Les Echos, December 2004

Vivaldi *La Verita in cemento* / Naïve

"The Ensemble Matheus's playing is exceptional."

BBC Music Magazine, September 2003

"One has to highlight the key role Jean-Christophe Spinosi and his Ensemble Matheus play in this recording. Few conductors have understood how the orchestra in its ensemble and the instrumentists that make it up are the major players of the drama. Hence the exceptional depth of what can no longer be called mere accompaniment."

Opéra International, July 2003

"Jean-Christophe Spinosi and the Ensemble Matheus deliver the goods in stunning style, thrusting the music forward with an assertive elegance that sometimes takes the breath away."

The Times, July 2003

"The music is superbly interpreted with ardour and passion. This Verita in cemento sure deserved to be freed from its silence."

Le Monde de la Musique, June 2003

"The fantastic phrasing and the extremely refined technique of the Ensemble Matheus under Christophe Spinosi make for a splendid production."

Musica, May 2003