

Madrid 1752: Sacred Music from the Royal chapel of Spain

Dorian DOR-93237

"Nebra's [Matins music is] spiced with harmonies pointing toward early classicism. Courcelle's Epiphany responsories are more flamboyant and more elaborately textured. All the music is dramatic in impact... and quite beautiful."

"Mr. Wilkins leads persuasive performances by the Spanish period-instrument orchestra and 16-voice chorus, captured in an ample church acoustic."

Scott Cantrell, November 11, 2001, Dallas Morning News

"It's way past time for performers and record companies to be taking a greater interest in choral music from 18th-century Spain, but better late than never. ... The best music here, the stuff we've been waiting for, comes from [Francisco] Courcelle [who] shows a real flair for text setting, for melody, and for orchestration, and a consummate mastery of polyphony."

"The choir assembled for this performance is quite a fine outfit, not only technically polished but capable of an impressive range of expression (not always the case in performances of music from this period....) Likewise for the Madrid Barroco orchestra, which effectively supports the chorus while capturing and confidently articulating the music's substantial excitement and drama."

"... the music is well worth hearing, and the performances are very, very good ... an enticing introduction to these two composers and to a long-neglected repertoire. I for one will be on the lookout for more Courcelle."

David Vernier, November, 2001, Classics Today