

Notes on Own the Pow'r of Harmony! – hidden vocal and instrumental gems of G.F. Handel

This stunning new album with mezzo-soprano Jennifer Lane commemorates the 250th anniversary of George Frideric Handel's passing (1685-1759). It contains lesser known vocal and instrumental gems from throughout Handel's career. From the much adored but rarely performed cantata: "Udite il mio consiglio," composed at the court of Cardinal Ruspoli in Rome during the Vatican's ban on opera, to glorious excerpts from the English oratorios Jephtha, Hercules and Saul, composed during a similar ban on Italian opera in England, these works of genius are unjustly overshadowed by Handel's new testament sacred works, particularly Messiah, and those few of his operas regularly offered by the world's opera houses. Also included on this CD is the rapturous Sonata in D Major for Violin and Continuo (Cynthia Roberts, violin), two arias from the opera Atalanta, and an aria from one of Handel's earliest Italian operas, Rodrigo. For many years, it was believed that the cantata: "Udite il mio consiglio," the centerpiece of this recording, ended with the Rodrigo aria "Allor che sorge." Handel's 19th century editor, Karl Friedrich Chrysander, found ending the cantata with a recitative too radical and was certain an aria had to be missing. This recording allows the listener to hear the cantata either way. You be the judge!

Some of Handel's most complex women are portrayed here as well as some of his most endearing boys, according to the 18th century tradition in which sopranos and mezzos took leading roles of both genders: Hercules' wife Dejanaira's jealousy; Jephtha's faithful wife Storge's shock at the news of their daughter's impending sacrifice; David love for Jonathan; and Meleagro's youthful love and passion for Atalanta.

The performers on this recording represent the full array of UNT's early music program, led by lutenist and director Lyle Nordstrom. With mezzo-soprano soloist Jennifer Lane, this recording includes faculty members, alumni and current students. The instrumental soloists are concertmaster and solo violinist Cynthia Roberts, flutist Tamara Meredith, cellist Gyöngy Erödi, baroque triple harpist Paula Fagerberg, harpsichordist Lenora McCroskey, theorbist Lyle Nordstrom, and student soloists: Tess Isaac, violin, Caitlin Cribbs, viola, and Wen-Ling Shih, violone.

University of North Texas Baroque Orchestra, Lyle Nordstrom, conductor:

Violin

Cynthia Roberts, concertmaster (1, 4, 5, 6, 15, 16, 17, 19, 21, 23, 24, 25)

Tess Isaac, principal (1, 4, 19, 21, 24, 25)

Hyo Jung Kim (4, 19)

Hyun Sun Oh (4, 19)

Sarah O'Neill (4, 19)

Stephanie Raby (4, 19)

Karolina Radovani (4, 19)

Sophia Ro (4, 19)

Guang Tan (4, 19)

Chun Chia Wang (4, 19)

Viola

Caitlin Cribbs, principal (1, 4, 19, 21)

Micah Behr (4, 19)

Colin Meinecke (4, 19)

Violoncello

Gyongy Erodi, principal (1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25)

Rachel Harlos (4, 19)

Yo-ho Chang (4, 19)

Violone

Wen-Ling Shih (1, 4, 19)

Baroque Flute

Tamara Meredith (19)

Bassoon

Keith Collins (4)

University of North Texas Baroque Orchestra, Lyle Nordstrom, conductor, continued:

Harpsichord

Lenora McCroskey (1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25)

Theorbo

Lyle Nordstrom (1, 2, 3, 18, 20, 22, 24)

Everett Redburn (4, 19)

Baroque Triple Harp

Paula Fagerberg (1, 2, 24)

Recorded at Winspear Hall, Murchison Performing Arts Center, University of North Texas, Denton, Texas, November 7 - 9, 2008; Malcolm Bruno, producer and Blair Liikala, engineer