

Andrea Broido: CLASSICAL PRAISE on no label



Classical Reviews - Vocal Collections

Written by Henry Fogel

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CLASSICAL PRAISE • Andrea Broido (sop); Roger McMurrin, cond; Kyiv SO & Ch • no label (59: 05 Text and Translation) Available at www.andreabroido.com

MOZART *Mass in c: Laudamus te. Vesperae solennes: Laudate Dominum. Exsultate Jubilate: Alleluia.* **HANDEL** *Messiah: Rejoice Greatly; Come unto Him.* **FRANCK** *Panus angelicus.* **MENDELSSOHN** *Lobesgesang: Praise Thou the Lord.* **HAYDN** *Missa brevis: Benedictus.* **STAINER** *The Crucifixion: God So Loved the World.* **YON** *Gesù bambino.* **BACH** *Cantata No. 68: My Heart Ever Faithful. Cantata No. 51: Jauchzet Gott.* **GOUNOD** *Messe solenne: Sanctus*

This is a self-produced CD, and thus doesn't have a formal label or catalog number. It can be ordered directly from the soprano's Web site, as noted above, or from Borders (Binc #872-2802). Why should you go to such trouble to obtain it? Because it is a very attractive disc, assuming that you like the repertoire. The music is mostly of a similar, somewhat spiritual, mood—but these are mostly well-known pieces for a reason. It is because they do have musical merit.

The surprise is Andrea Broido—a soprano of whom I know nothing. There is no biographical information included—the accompanying material consists solely of English translations of the texts. So I have no idea at what stage of her career she is, or in what kinds of venues she has sung. What I hear on this disc is a strong, gleaming lyric soprano, capable of genuine glow sound when riding over the orchestra and at the same time able to provide a good deal of dynamic shading. The coloristic range seems narrow, but this material doesn't call for a wide range of vocal colors.

I thought I might find the narrow emotional range of the music tiring, but the singing was attractive enough to sustain my interest for the full hour. I would like to hear Broido in other repertoire—as well as in the concert hall or opera house, so I would have a better idea of the carrying power of the voice.

The orchestral and choral accompaniments are more than adequate, and the recorded sound is perfectly judged. The balances and perspective are completely natural. As indicated above, there are no program notes of any kind, just the English texts. This disc was a very pleasant surprise for me. **Henry Fogel**

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