

NAXOS

ROSSI: Toccatas and Correnti

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Although the Italian composer, Michelangelo Rossi, was hailed in his lifetime as a violin virtuoso, a distinguished madrigalist and composer of two operas, his reputation is founded on his astonishingly original and technically advanced keyboard music. Rossi's *Toccatas* and *Correnti* combine Frescobaldi's mastery of counterpoint with the chromaticism and sudden modulations of Gesualdo and Sigismondo d'India, resulting in a very personal idiom. This is most clearly heard in *Toccatas Settima*, the best known of Rossi's keyboard works, which has tremendous energy and drama, and concludes with an extraordinary passage of rising and falling chromatic scales.

Michelangelo  
**ROSSI**  
(1602–1656)

**Toccatas e Correnti d'Intavolatura d'organo e cembalo  
(Complete Edition)**

1	Toccatas I	5:34	11	Corrente I	1:05
2	Toccatas II	5:38	12	Corrente II	1:25
3	Toccatas III	6:05	13	Corrente III	1:34
4	Toccatas IV	6:15	14	Corrente IV	1:11
5	Toccatas V	7:52	15	Corrente V	0:58
6	Toccatas VI	5:23	16	Corrente VI	1:27
7	Toccatas VII	6:06	17	Corrente VII	1:15
8	Toccatas VIII	6:38	18	Corrente VIII	1:17
9	Toccatas IX	6:08	19	Corrente IX	2:45
10	Toccatas X	9:00	20	Corrente X	1:55

**Sergio Vartolo, Harpsichord**

Recorded in Fumane, Italy, on 19th and 20th June, 2003 • Producer and Engineer: Matteo Costa

Performed on period instruments • A = 415Hz

Booklet Notes: Sergio Vartolo (translated by Hugh Ward-Perkins)

Cover Picture: *Various harpsichords owned by Sergio Vartolo*

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