

Baroque composers were particularly drawn to ancient heathen and Christmas themes as touched upon in the shepherd episodes of the Christmas narrative. In 18th-century Rome, relics of the great liturgical Christmas plays of the Middle Ages survived in popular shepherd and nativity plays. Every year on Christmas Eve shepherds from the surrounding countryside came to Rome to play on their bagpipes and shawms. This recording brings together concertos and cantatas associated with the events of Christmas, alternating the contemplative and the pastoral as in Corelli's *Christmas Concerto* and the festive as illustrated in Stradella's *Sonata*, where the trumpet becomes a symbol of the power of God.

A ROMAN CHRISTMAS

Italian Concertos and Cantatas

Alessandro STRADELLA (1639–1682)

1–4 Sonata in D major for trumpet and strings 8:28

Alessandro MARCELLO (1673–1747)

5–7 Concerto in D minor for oboe, strings and continuo 11:23

Alessandro SCARLATTI (1660–1725)

8–14 Cantata pastorale per la nascita di Nostro Signore: O di Betlemme altera povertà, for soprano, strings and continuo 19:13

Tomaso ALBINONI (1671–1751)

15–17 Concerto in D minor for Oboe, Strings and Continuo, Op. 9, No. 2 11:15

Arcangelo CORELLI (1653–1713)

18–23 Concerto grosso in G minor, Op. 6, No. 8 'Christmas Concerto' 13:41

Maya Boog, Soprano

Jürgen Schuster, Trumpet • Stefan Schilli, Oboe
Cologne Chamber Orchestra • Helmut Müller-Brühl DeutschlandRadio

A detailed tracklist can be found inside the booklet

Recorded: November 1997 and February 1998 at Deutschland Radio, Germany

A co-production with Deutschland Radio

Project producer: Ludwig Rink • Producer: Uwe Walter • Engineers: Hans-Martin Renz and Ernst Hartmann

Booklet notes: Michael Struck-Schloen, Helmut Müller-Brühl and Keith Anderson

Cover painting: *The Virgin and Child with St Paul and St Francis*

by Giovanni Battista Cima da Conegliano (c. 1460–1518) (The National Gallery, London)



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Playing Time
64:21



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