

L'Allegro, il Penseroso ed il Moderato marks another important stage in the development of the English oratorio. The first two parts intermingle the cheerful and the thoughtful of Milton's two poems, which seek to banish melancholy by extolling the delights of country life and the cities (*L'Allegro*) and the pleasures of the mind (*Il Penseroso*). In the third part, by Handel's friend Charles Jennens, the Moderate Man seeks to reconcile the merits of the two opposite but finally complementary characters. The music is breath-taking, the arias and ensembles full of exhilarating Italianate melodies, while the choruses, the new special element of oratorio, are composed in such a way that they could also be performed by talented amateurs.

George Frideric
HANDEL
(1685-1759)

L'Allegro, il Penseroso ed il Moderato, HWV55

Oratorio in Three Parts after John Milton,
arranged and with a Third Part, *Il Moderato*, by Charles Jennens

CD 1

1-23 Part 1

59:12

CD 2

1-17 Part 2

46:41

18-26 Part 3

24:50

Linda Perillo, Soprano • Barbara Hannigan, Soprano
Knut Schoch, Tenor • Stephan MacLeod, Bass
Junge Kantorei • Frankfurt Baroque Orchestra • Joachim Carlos Martini

The English libretto and a German translation can be found at
www.naxos.com/libretti/handel-allegro.htm

A complete track list can be found on pages 3 and 4 of the booklet
Recorded live at Kloster Eberbach, Eltville im Rheingau, Germany
on Whit Sunday, 19th May 2002.

Producers: Joachim Carlos Martini and Andrea Hellbach • Booklet Notes: Joachim Carlos Martini
Cover Painting: *The Three Graces* by Jan Gerritsz van Bronckhorst (c.1603-c.1661)
(Johnny van Haeften Gallery, London, UK / www.bridgeman.co.uk)



DDD

8.557057-58

Playing Time
2:10:43



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