

Vivaldi's *Griselda*, one of more than twenty operas, is based on a story retold in Boccaccio's *Il decamerone* about the testing of Griselda's patience and virtue by her royal husband through a series of cruel trials. The sense of drama that permeates many of Vivaldi's more programmatic works, such as the *Four Seasons*, is very naturally carried over into his operas, especially with the use of so-called 'simile' arias, in which an emotional state is compared with various natural phenomena. Several very fine examples can be heard in *Griselda*, including Costanza's extraordinary 'Agitata da due venti' in Act Two; the text compares love and duty with two contrary winds, and the setting is correspondingly wild, with fierce *fioriture* and wide leaps.



Antonio
VIVALDI
(1678-1741)

Griselda, RV718

Dramma per musica in Three Acts



Gualtiero, King of Tessaglia (Thessaly) Giles Tomkins, Bass
 Griselda, His Wife, the Queen of Thessaly Marion Newman, Mezzo-soprano
 Costanza, Daughter of Griselda and Gualtiero,
 Princess of Thessaly Carla Huhtanen, Soprano
 Roberto, Prince of Atene (Athens) Lynne McMurtry, Mezzo-soprano
 Corrado, Roberto's Brother Jason Nedecky, Baritone
 Ottone, Noble Knight of Thessaly Colin Ainsworth, Tenor

Opera in Concert / Aradia Ensemble

Kevin Mallon

CD 1	65:17	CD 2	64:21	CD 3	39:28
[1] Sinfonia	4:54	[1-16] Act II	64:21	[1-9] Act III	39:28
[2-15] Act I	60:23				

A full track list can be found on pages 3 and 4 of the booklet
 The Italian libretto and an English translation may be accessed at www.naxos.com/libretti/660211.htm

Recorded at Grace Church on-the-Hill, Toronto, Canada, from 4th to 14th September, 2006

Producers: Norbert Kraft and Bonnie Silver • Engineer: Norbert Kraft • Editor: Bonnie Silver

Booklet Notes: William Yeoman • Cover image: *River Landscape with a Nymph Plucking a Branch from a Bleeding Tree* by Andrea Locatelli (c.1659-c.1741) (Christie's Images / www.bridgeman.co.uk)



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Playing Time
2:49:06



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