

Codaex, May/June 2009

BISSA 1736 * BIS

Handel was, and remains a master of the grand panoramic choral work, providing a sound picture which imbues both his operas and oratorios. It is as if his large and extrovert personality animates them with energy, a breadth of musical language and lively rhythms, all of which abound in this CD.

This fine, resolutely English recording conveys the joy and vitality of the music as masterfully as may be expected from The Bach Choir with their long experience of performing Handel. Like others, the composer left his imprint on the British musical scene. The sustained flexibility and tonal precision in this CD's extracts are deeply satisfying, providing an intense sense of drama through expressive and well-tempered phrasing. As soloists, both Carolyn Sampson and Robin Blaze give performances that are stylistically entirely fitting.

[Translation by Jo Sullam]