



stile antico  
early music vocal ensemble

**SELECTED PRESS COVERAGE**

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## 'Divine Theatre' has been shortlisted for the 2017 Gramophone 'Early Music Award'

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READER

PRESTO  
CLASSICAL



"They phrase with purpose and animate texts but never compromise their beautiful warm blend.... this album is one of their most engaging recordings: polyphony to grab one's attention rather than to carpet a devotional daydream."

*Edward Breen, Gramophone*

"unexpectedly rich in imagination, variety, and often sheer joyful energy, and the performances boast a high-quality technical brilliance."

*Richard Fairman, Financial Times*

"L'ensemble impressionne une fois de plus par sa cohésion, les couleurs vocales, la fraîcheur des voix, la clarté et l'agilité dans le contrepoint, l'expressivité aussi bien dans les passages narratifs que les dialogues dans un genre qui peut facilement devenir monotone."

*Jean-Baptiste de La Taille, ResMusica*

"There are a number of first-rate a capella vocal groups specializing in Renaissance polyphony. Their virtues are the same: balance, purity of voice, the finest feeling for drama. The groups are supported by deep scholarship as well as superb sound engineering. Stile Antico is without doubt among the very best of our generation in this genre, having delivered a flawless series of polyphonic masterpieces in interesting programs.

One is serenely shrouded in the radiant weave of voices. There is a pneumatic glow from the bottom and spine-tingling timbres from the top. Somehow the voices manage to blend without losing individuality. At times, it is distinctly human utterance, and then at other times, it magically dissolves into pure disembodied sound, especially at its slowest moments."

*Audiophile Audition*

"The recording features the group bringing its polyphonic precision to the sacred motets of Flemish composer Giaches de Wert, who spent most of his life living in Italy and whose fame stems primarily from his madrigals. The 12-person ensemble sings the pieces with overwhelming beauty and exactitude, forming rich, ethereal harmonies and fluid counterpoint that pull me in every time."

*Peter Margasak, Chicago Reader*

"The young British vocal ensemble Stile Antico (who celebrated their tenth birthday in 2015) are almost as well known for their imaginative and intelligent programming as for the impeccable intonation and blend which they bring to Renaissance polyphony... For their latest disc on Harmonia Mundi they've chosen to focus on a single composer: the Flemish-born, Italian-domiciled composer Giaches de Wert (1535-96), whose remarkably vivid depictions of some of the scriptures' most dramatic narratives have received precious few outings on disc thus far and really deserve to be better known... the life and work of a composer whose music was almost entirely new to me, but has been sitting at the top of my play-list throughout February!"

*Katherine Cooper, Presto Classical*

"Fresh and exuberant...More De Wert from this group would be very welcome."

*Anthony Pryer, BBC Music Magazine \*\*\*\**

"This is beautifully crafted and eloquently expressive polyphony, and is sung in Stile Antico's finest style. They bring out the line in the music, creating a beautiful sense of legato texture and a feeling of voices ebbing and flowing. This is music whose surface beauty is such that it is fatally easy to let it simply wash over you, but there is more to de Wert than that and the quality of these performances make us want to come back to the music and explore deeper."

*Robert Hugill, Planet Hugill*



"Through the voices and sensibilities of a dedicated ensemble like Stile Antico, they all speak to us today, regardless of whether we feel or even note their religious content, or of how closely they conform to the standards of the day... That's the magic of great music, especially when it's performed with utmost skill. Stile Antico brings brilliantly to life this highly varied selection of Wert's beautiful motets."

*Jon Sobel, BlogCritic.com*



"Sublime Singing... Not prone to dwell on darker sentiments longer than necessary, Stile Antico consistently moves the music along, creating a glowing sonic tapestry. They're also not afraid of joy"

*Jason Serinus, Stereophile*



"As always, the singing of Stile Antico is absolutely superb."

*CD Hotlist*



"Faultless... I urge you to search this disc out, it's as good as they come."

*MusicWeb International*



"The English singers of Stile Antico are able to point up all these features with the tip of a brush, often attaining truly exciting interpretations, as in the case of the festive 'Gaudete in Domino' which opens the collection, or in the evocative 'Peccavi super numerum'."

*Avvenire.it*



"Stile Antico are the perfect artists for this repertory, bringing equal measures of clarity and passion to the music"

*\*\*\*\*1/2, Tony Way, Limelight Magazine*

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