



PRESS RELEASE

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STYLUS PHANTASTICUS

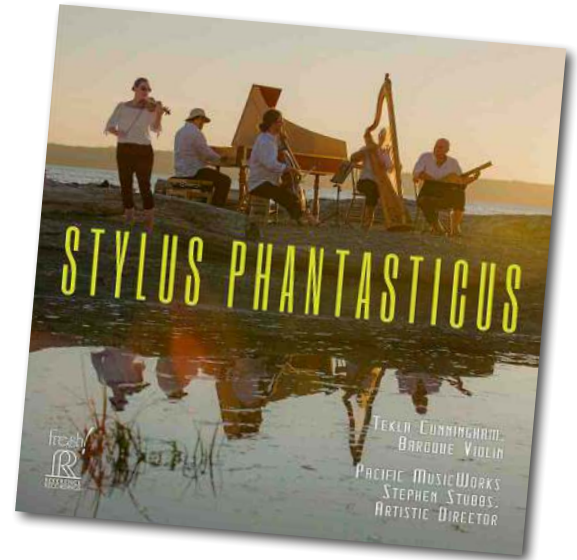


PACIFIC MUSICWORKS
STEPHEN STUBBS, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

FEATURING
TEKLA CUNNINGHAM, BAROQUE VIOLIN

REFERENCE RECORDINGS **FR-742**

Street Date: August 20, 2021



FANTASTIC WORKS, GORGEOUS PERFORMANCES AND SUPERB SOUND FROM PACIFIC MUSICWORKS!

SAN FRANCISCO—**Reference Recordings** proudly presents this unique album with 11 works of early Baroque composers. The famous Jesuit Father Athanasius Kircher (1602–1680) wrote in Book VII of the *Musurgia Universalis* describing different musical styles, but, in particular, he defined a “fantastical style” for instruments:

“The *Stylus phantasticus* is appropriate to instruments. It is the most free and unfettered method of composition, bound to nothing, neither to words, nor to a harmonious subject. It is organized with regard to manifest invention, the hidden reason of harmony, and an ingenious, skilled connection of harmonic phrases and fugues. And it is divided into those pieces which are commonly called *Phantasias*, *Ricercatas*, *Toccatas*, and *Sonatas*.”

The compositions included on this recording provide prime examples of the lineage of the *stylus phantasticus* from its Italian roots, before Kircher wrote his definition, to its later development into an “imperial style” associated with Central Europe and the Habsburgs.

Stylus Phantasticus was produced by GRAMMY®-award winning David Sabee in St. Thomas Chapel, Kenmore, Washington. The album was recorded by GRAMMY®-award winning engineers Dmitry Lipay, Aleksandr Lipay and Kory Kruckenberg. Artists on this album are Tekla Cunningham, baroque violin; William Skeen, bass violin; Stephen Stubbs, baroque guitar and chitarrone; Maxine Eilander, baroque harp; and Henry Lebedinsky, organ and harpsichord.

Founded in 2007 by GRAMMY®-award winning conductor Stephen Stubbs, Pacific MusicWorks presents Baroque music, dance and theater to audiences worldwide. Bringing experience gained performing with leading early music performers here and abroad, PMW contributes an historically and culturally informed perspective to collaborations with a diverse cast of internationally renowned artists.

Reference Recordings was founded in 1976 in San Francisco. The label has multiple GRAMMY® awards and a catalog that includes numerous American and international orchestras, ensembles and choruses. **FRESH!** is part of Reference Recordings’ mission to encourage unique and fine artists, and give them a strong platform for promotion and sales nationally and internationally.

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PACIFIC MUSICWORKS

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- | | |
|--|-------|
| 1) <i>Sonata Seconda detta la Desperata</i> • Carlo Farina (1600–1639)
baroque violin / bass violin / chitarrone / baroque harp / organ / harpsichord | 9:53 |
| 2) <i>Toccata</i> • Giovanni de Macque (1550–1614)
baroque harp | 1:49 |
| 3) <i>La Lucimonia contenta, Op. 4 No. 2</i> • Marco Uccellini (1603–1680)
baroque violin / bass violin / chitarrone / baroque harp / organ / harpsichord | 3:42 |
| 4) <i>Partite sopra La Folia</i> • Francesco Corbetta (1615–1681)
baroque guitar / baroque harp | 1:43 |
| 5) <i>La Castella, Op. 3 No. 4</i> • Giovanni Antonio Pandolfi Mealli (1630–1669/70)
baroque violin / bass violin / baroque guitar / baroque harp / organ / harpsichord | 7:37 |
| 6) <i>Sonata Seconda</i> • Giovanni Battista Fontana (?–1630)
baroque violin / bass violin / baroque guitar / baroque harp / organ / harpsichord | 6:24 |
| 7) <i>Sonata Prima</i> • Heinrich Ignaz Franz von Biber (1644–1704)
baroque violin / bass violin / baroque guitar / baroque harp / organ / harpsichord | 12:36 |
| 8) <i>Ciaconna in A from Serenada in Mascara</i> • Johann Heinrich Schmelzer (1620–1680)
baroque violin / bass violin / baroque guitar / baroque harp / organ / harpsichord | 7:16 |
| 9) <i>Sonata Prima for violin and continuo</i> • Ignazio Albertini (1633–1685)
baroque violin / bass violin / chitarrone / baroque harp / organ / harpsichord | 7:31 |
| 10) <i>Sonata Seconda from Sonatæ unarum fidium</i> • Johann Heinrich Schmelzer (1620–1680)
baroque violin / bass violin / harpsichord | 7:52 |
| 11) <i>Sonata Quarta from Sonatæ unarum fidium</i> • Johann Heinrich Schmelzer (1620–1680)
baroque violin / bass violin / baroque guitar / baroque harp / organ / harpsichord | 8:13 |

TOTAL TIME: 74:40

Recorded: February 15–17, 2018

Recording Location: St. Thomas Chapel, Kenmore, Washington, USA

Tekla Cunningham, baroque violin

William Skeen, bass violin

Stephen Stubbs, baroque guitar and chitarrone

Maxine Eilander, baroque harp

Henry Lebedinsky, organ and harpsichord

Producer: David Sabee / Engineers: Dmitry Lipay, Aleksandr Lipay and Kory Kruckenberg

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