

## CLASSICAL

*Mezzo Mozart*

**Marina Viotti, Gli Angeli Genève** (Aparte)

This new release features Swiss mezzo-soprano Marina Viotti in a pleasing program of Mozart, while also underscoring the sheer breadth and versatility of the Wunderkind's music whether sung by soprano, mezzo, or (the then ubiquitous) castrato, in addition to lower-range voices.



Mezzo Mozart / Marina Viotti, Gli Angeli Genève

Stephan Macleod crisply leads the Gli Angeli Genève baroque ensemble he founded in 2005 in 10 operatic selections, with an early highlight becoming *Smanie implacabili* from *Così fan tutte*, K. 588. Dorabella's famous colouratura aria proves no match for Viotti's virtuosity, with her nimble vocals tossing off its leaps and runs as easily as child's play.

Others include her expressive rendering of *Deh vieni non tardar* from *Le nozze di Figaro*, with the

singer shaping each of her long-arching phrases with lyrical grace; also heard during arietta *Voi che sapete* from that same opera.

By contrast, *Cara lontano ancora* from Mozart's *Ascanio in Alba*, K. 111, bristles with taut energy, while *Va pure ad altri in braccio* from *La finta giardiniera* shows off the soloist's greater dramatic intensity as she spits out each of her words with clear diction.

---

However, the proverbial icing on the cake is a complete performance of Mozart's venerable Latin motet from 1773, *Exsultate, jubilate*, K. 165, more typically sung by a soprano. As expected, the singer dazzles with more effervescent colouratura during its finale *Allegro: Alleluia, alleluia*, her darker-toned voice resounding joy in this eternally popular showstopper one never wearies of hearing. HHHH out of five

Stream: *Deh vieni non tardar*; *Allegro: Alleluia, alleluia*

— Holly Harris