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Sorarmonica: *In The World of Classics* SORM CD 001

By David Beer [contest adjudicator]

If classical music is your passion, or if you'd just like to hear a unique harmonica ensemble playing well, then you will not be disappointed by the musicianship and sophisticated arrangements in a collection of classical pieces on this CD by the Slovenian group Sorarmonica, who delighted us at the 2015 Festival in Bristol. This collection has pieces ranging from the 16th to the 20th century, sequenced in chronological order.

In the piece by Petelin, the ensemble cleverly replicates the renaissance style of playing, with its sharp attack and staccato articulation, capturing the sound of the bombard and shawm and other instruments of the period.

2 popular pieces by Bach follow, and the legato playing and careful balance is very impressive on the popular Air ("on a G string") from the Suite in D major. The group's skill in maintaining a tight rhythmic ensemble is well demonstrated in four anonymous 18th century minuets.

Then the tone and approach changes again when we reach the Classical period, and the ensemble give the Mozart Serenade a lovely delicacy and lightness of tone.

The pièce de resistance has to be the very impressive performance of Ravel's Bolero, where the 8 players, led here by the consistent rhythmic ostinato of Simona Perme (demonstrating some excellent diaphragmatic breathing and stamina), make a surprisingly full ensemble sound, with impressive dynamic control. It is a rare treat to hear this impressive classical ensemble so well recorded.

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Sorarmonica: *V svetu klasike* SORM CD 001

Recenzija: David Beer [ocenjevalec tekmovanj]

Če je klasična glasba vaša strast, ali če bi radi le slišali dobro igranje edinstvenega ansambla ustnih harmonik, potem ne boste razočarani nad glasbenim mojstrstvom in pretanjenimi priredbami klasičnih skladb v izvedbi slovenske skupine Sorarmonica, ki nas je očarala na Festivalu 2015 v Bristolu. Izbor zajema glasbo od 16-ega do 20-ega stoletja, razvrščeno po kronološkem zaporedju.

V Petelinovi (Gallusovi) skladbi ansambel spretno ponazarja renesančni slog igranja z ostrimi nastavki in kratko, staccato artikulacijo, ko nam pričara zvok bombardarja, šalmaja in drugih glasbil tistega časa.

Sledita dve priljubljeni Bachovi skladbi in ob skrbni uravnovešenosti deluje legato igranje popularnega Aira iz Suite v D-duru zelo impresivno. Ansamblova sposobnost vzdrževanja trdnega ritma se potem dobro izkaže pri anonimnih menuetih iz 18-ega stoletja.

Ko prispemo v obdobje klasicizma, se zvok in pristop spet spremenita in v Mozartovi Serenadi nam ansambel ponudi ljubko prefinjenost in lahkotnost igranja.

Poglavitno dejanje pa bi naj predstavljala močno izrazita izvedba Ravelovega Bolera, kjer osem glasbenikov vodi čvrst ritmični ostinato Simone Perme, ki tukaj pokaže izjemno tehniko preponskega dihanja in vzdržljivost, skupina pa ponudi presenetljivo poln zven s prepričljivo nadzorovano dinamiko. Izjemen užitek je slišati tako dobre posnetke tega impresivnega ansambla.