

KLASSIK**ANTONIO VIVALDI – LE QUATTRO STAGIONI „A PARTI REALI“; FONÈ ENSEMBLE**

fonè / Connaisseur fonè 007

At the outgoing Settecento, the musical world revolved around Venice: Into the city of ten theatres, where opera flourished, of San Marco and its sacred music, and of the “ospedali”, where the concerto grosso and the solo concerto were born, Antonio Lucio Vivaldi was born in 1678. At a very young age, he showed talent immediately and filled in his father’s footsteps, a violinist. His instrumental œuvre, namely the development of the solo concerto in three movements, affected even Johann Sebastian Bach. But being an outstanding violinist himself, he also played a decisive role in the development of violin technique. His more than 230 (!!!) violin concertos demand a great deal from the soloist: Arpeggios, playing in high positions, bouncing bow, thrills and double stops expanded the expressive possibilities enormously. Since ever, the Four Seasons enjoyed great popularity, these four violin concertos with programmatic setting. However, if the preceding “sonetti dimostrativi” have also been penned by Vivaldi remains uncertain. “Zephyr gently blows, but Boreas, the north wind, suddenly enters into a contest with its neighbour, and the little shepherd weeps for he hears the awesome threatening storm and his fate.” With the tempo that may almost be called ludicrous which Marco Fornaciari, the “Maestro concertante e violino solista” is setting, this fear is absolutely justified! The seven musicians offer a refreshing interpretation that never orientates towards “mainstream”. Due to the soloistic setting (a parti reali), a never heard transparency is to be created in the rather transparent string section already. Those who dare the volume of sound could suffer thereby can be relieved. The recording, made in a Cremonese church, sounds fantastic. One reason, for sure, is owed to the pure analogue recording equipment, mainly in-house design by fonè. Hard to envision how the 45rpm pressing (unfortunately out of stock) must have sounded!

The seven musicians have taken “the venture of harmony and invention” (Il Cimento dell’Armonia e dell’Inventione) – and have won with bravura!