

Sforzinda

The Group

The Renaissance recorder ensemble Sforzinda was founded in 2000 in Barcelona, and is named after the ideal city that Antonio di Pietro Averlino (a.k.a. Filarete) projected in his *Trattato di architettura* (ca. 1465). The ensemble consists of five core members of Joan Izquierdo (musical director), David Aijón, Andreu Brunat, Joan Escoda and Tiam Goudarzi, and is often joined by as many as three more players to tackle larger textures. Their outstanding set of Renaissance recorders was made by Bob Marvin after originals housed at the Kunsthistorisches Museum in Vienna, and play at original pitch (a⁴=460 Hz). Halfway between the expressivity of the singing voice and the Renaissance church organ, Sforzinda specializes in the period circa 1540-1620 and always performs from the original notation.

Sforzinda made its debut at the Fundación Carlos de Amberes (Madrid) in 2001, and since then has performed throughout Spain, France and Greece. The ensemble's CD recording of Orlando di Lasso's *Il primo libro di mottetti a 5 ed a 6 voci* for the Ars Harmonica label was released in 2005.

Their Philosophy

The ensemble's main objective is the exploration of 16th century vocal repertoire through purely instrumental performance, and to revive this oft-quoted practice to the degree and depth it deserves.

Working from the original notation is an important aspect of their approach to interpretation, as it allows rhythmic organization freedom that its modern counterpart can express in only crude ways; far more interesting and authentic results are thus achieved due to the stricter demands it makes on the players' awareness.

All of Sforzinda's recordings, commercial or otherwise, are free of any digital editing or splicing of any kind. That is, completely live.

Reviews

Sforzinda's interpretation combines character and spirit ... [the] pieces flow clearly and intelligibly. An exquisite recording for Renaissance music lovers. — CD Compact, July/August 2006

...the outcome was spectacular...the whole audience remained silent throughout the performance...one of the most brilliant of this series... — Teleprensa Almería, April 2006

A daring and rigorous performance of the Renaissance recorder ensemble, Sforzinda [the group] offered a concert rigorous in technique and instrumentally pleasing. — CD Compact, November 2001

In this recording, Sforzinda interprets Orlando di Lasso's *Il primo libro de mottetti a 5 i 6 voci*, published in 1556. The surprising result is a music that, liberated from the word, shows an abstract, austere and essential beauty, with an admirable precision and clarity, the depth, subtlety and wisdom of di Lasso's polyphonies. A CD for connoisseurs. —X.P., El País, May 2006

This disc invites us to enjoy the music of the Franco-Flemish composer Orlando di Lasso, one of the most significant musicians of the Renaissance, interpreted magnificently by the ensemble Sforzinda. — Música y Educación, N.66, June 2006, p.227
