



**Antonia Padoani Bembo**

***The Seven Psalms of David, Volume II***

*La Donna Musicale* (Sherezade Panthaki, Margaret Hunter, soprano; Laura Gulley, Jennifer Schiller, Cécile J. Garcia-Moeller, Baroque violin; Na'ama Lion, Baroque flute; Ruth McKay, organ, harpsichord; Sonia Lee, Noriko Yasuda, harpsichord; Laury Gutiérrez, director, viola da gamba); Aaron Sheehan, tenor; Frederick Jodry, bass. *La Donna Musicale* (self-produced) 58:00 minutes

In this second volume of music by Antonia Padoani Bembo (c.1640–c.1720), *La Donna Musicale* offers the final three settings of seven psalms. These elegant and intriguing arrangements of Elisabeth-Sophie Chéron's poetic texts not only demonstrate the fruits of a major talent in the court of Louis XIV, but also provide a repertory that is excellently suited to the abilities of this fine group of performers. The cycle concludes with *Psalm XXXI*, "*Beati quorum remissae sunt iniquitates*," a three movement composition that demonstrates the talents of the singers and musicians in the group, with the addition of tenor Aaron Sheehan and bass Frederick Jodry. Jodry's voice adds notable richness to the trio texture Bembo used throughout. Soprano Sherezade Panthaki performs the solo setting of *Psalm L*, "*Miserere mei, Deus, secundum*," with purity and elegance. Sheehan joins soprano Margaret Hunter for the concluding setting of *Psalm XXXVII*, "*Domine, ne infurore*." The vocal pairings not only demonstrate the talents of these voices, but also indicate the wealth of ideas Bembo used in these compositions.

As in the first volume, the group also includes compositions by Bembo's contemporary Elisabeth Jacquet de la Guerre (1665–1729). The instrumentalists do laudable justice to the *Trio Sonata in D Major*. In addition, two works from the composer's *Les Pièces de clavessin* are performed by keyboardists Ruth McKay (the *Prelude in D minor*) and Sonia Lee (*Prelude in A minor*). This recording is a must for listeners  
—Denise Gallo

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