



Buxtehude VII Suonate, Op. 2  
Instrumental music by Dietrich  
Buxtehude (c.1637 – 1707)  
Purcell Quartet  
Chaconne [www.chandos.net](http://www.chandos.net)  
CHAN 0784 62'55

This is the Purcell Quartet's second recording of trio music for two violins and harpsichord, or, violin, viola da gamba and harpsichord. The first was Op. 1, also available as a Chaconne CD recording. This joins a number of other recordings of these sonatas, but perhaps with the difference that here it has been carefully considered as to whether to use a second violin, or a viola da gamba, for the second part, instead of the 'traditional' choice of always using a viola da gamba. Peter Holman, in his excellent, informative and interesting CD inlay notes explains and traces the history of the various forms and developments behind the choice of instruments in this genre of instrumental music.

The Purcell Quartet have been performing and recording together for many years, and this is evident on hearing this recording; the musical interplay between the musicians is one of the highlights of this CD. Beautiful playing goes without saying. Although all instruments can be heard, I personally would have preferred the balance to have had the violin (brilliant as it is) not quite so in the forefront, and a more prominent harpsichord would also have been preferable ... these are trio sonatas after all.

Simon Roberts

Teuzzone  
'Dramma per musica in tre atti' by  
Antonio Vivaldi (1678 – 1741)  
Le Concert des Nations – Jordi Savall  
Naïve [www.antonio-vivaldi.eu](http://www.antonio-vivaldi.eu) OP 30513  
3 CDs

This three CD box set contains the opera 'Teuzzone' by Vivaldi, with libretto by the poet Apostolo Zeno. Vivaldi was not the first to create an opera from this libretto but, in contrast to previous versions which had had the lead sung by a castrato, Vivaldi made the bold decision instead to assign the lead role of his opera to a woman.

From the very first note, one hears the passionate and exciting musicality of Le Concert des Nations. In the recits, the continuo section beautifully accompany the soloists, and with sensitivity and expression which always reflects the words and story being sung. The solo singers are exemplary and, clearly, have been carefully hand picked, not only for their expertise, but also for the wide variety of expressive colours which each of their voices bring to this opera.

As with any CD with a link to Jordi Savall, the booklet notes are extensive and offered in multiple languages.

I am very much a fan of the emotional commitment and passion in performances and recordings from 'mainland' Europe, and this one is no exception. Highly recommended.

Daniel James