

Baroque Explorations

David Watson



Kanon Digital Orchestration

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1. Händel - Concerto Op.4 No.6 Bb Major 1st Movement Andante allegro
2. Händel - Concerto Op.4 No.6 Bb Major 2nd Movement Larghetto
3. Händel - Concerto Op.4 No.6 Bb Major 3rd Movement Allegro moderato
4. Caccini - Tu Ch'ai Le Penne, Amore
5. Buxtehude - Passacaglia BUXWV161
6. Bach - Three Part Invention No.4
7. Bach - Two Part Inventions Nos.1 & 13
8. Vivaldi - Violin Concerto Op.9 No.4 2nd Movement Largo, RV 345
9. Schütz - Introitus: Die Sieben Worte Jesu Christi am Kreuz
10. Albinoni - Adagio from Violin Concerto in C Major Co2.
11. Corelli - Christmas Concerto Allegro Op.6 No.8
12. Bach - Fugue in G Minor (Little) BWV 578
13. Bach - Fugue in G Minor (Great) BWV 542

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The thirteen tracks on this CD cover a wide range of Baroque music. Some are straightforward transcriptions for a variety of instruments and others are jazz-style arrangements with some improvised passages mixed with the original parts.

Digital Orchestration – all of the music on this CD is produced using virtual instruments and sophisticated computer software, mainly from the world leading Vienna Symphonic Library. For more information on Digital Orchestration and its possibilities visit: www.kanon.co.uk

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Händel's Concerto Op.4 No.6 was originally written as a Harp concerto (1736) although it was also published as an Organ concerto (1738). The arrangement here is for piano, bass, drums and chamber strings. The piano plays the original harp score as well as some jazz style improvisations.

Bach's Two & Three Part Inventions were originally written by Bach as exercises for his students. Here, the two part inventions Nos. 1/13 are transcribed for Lithophone and double bass. The three part invention No.4 is transcribed for alto and tenor saxophone and double bass.

Bach's "Little" Fugue in G minor BWV 578 is one of his best known organ fugues. The arrangement here is for flute, oboe, bass guitar and drums. The "Great" Fugue in G minor BWV 542 acquired its name to distinguish it from the "Little" Fugue in G minor. This arrangement is for piano, bass and drums.

Dieterich Buxtehude is best known as a composer of organ music, of which he was one of the most important composers before JS Bach. This

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Passacaglia is transcribed for chamber strings. Its formal structure comprises four sections, each containing seven variations of a seven note ostinato.

Corelli's Concerto Grosso Op.6 No.8 is popularly known as the Christmas Concerto. This arrangement of the allegro is for soprano and tenor sax with piano, bass and drums.

Caccini was a composer, teacher, singer, instrumentalist and writer of the very late Renaissance and early Baroque eras. In his lifetime he achieved great fame for his solo songs accompanied by a chordal instrument. Modern popular song writers today would have no difficulty in recognising his melodic and harmonic progressions. Tu Chai Le Penne, Amore from his collection Le Nuove Musiche would originally have been performed by a solo singer with improvised lute accompaniment.

Vivaldi wrote more than 500 concerti. This example is the slow movement from Op.9 No.4. As well as the Violin and cello there are two soft-synths playing here.

Albinoni was a prolific composer of opera although today her is principally remembered for his instrumental music. This example is the Adagio from one of his little heard violin concerti – Violin Concerto in C Maj Co2. The arrangement is for soprano sax, flute, rhythm section and chamber strings.

Heinrich Schütz is generally regarded as the most important German composer before JS Bach. In this transcription of the Introitus from Die Sieben Worte Jesu Christi am Kreuz, the voices are taken by soprano, alto, tenor x 2, and baritone saxophones.