



“shimmering in loveliness in the monastic air”

Recording of the Month: *Vespers of 1610* (2023)

MusicWeb International

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Building on their success with last year’s highly acclaimed *Vespers of 1610*, THE THIRTEEN, one of the finest chamber ensembles of its kind—“transfigures the listener,” (*The Washington Post*), “Exquisite in every way” (*Gramophone*)—releases another album of Monteverdi: THE ‘LOST’ VESPERS. Far from being a new discovery of a unified work that has been lost to the passage of time, THE ‘LOST’ VESPERS is a curated compilation of Monteverdi’s work that has been hiding in plain sight for the last 350 years. Drawing from Monteverdi’s end-of-life volumes *Selva morale* and *Missa et salmi*, the album closely follows the structure of a *vespers*, alternating between celebration and reflection, light and darkness. What emerges is a glorious presentation, performed by virtuosic masters of Monteverdi’s style.

This is the culmination of a four year exploration of Monteverdi’s sacred choral works by THE THIRTEEN, a choir of soloists. Artistic Director and founder, MATTHEW ROBERTSON says, “It has been a glorious journey of discovery. I thank my colleagues for their endlessly inventive music-making and kind hearts. I’m honored to make music with them and greatly enjoyed recording this ‘Lost’ Vespers so that we can share the fruits of our labors.” The album features virtuosic playing by historical violins and cornetti, accompanied by theorbo, cello, and chamber organ.

Recorded in the sumptuous acoustics of the Franciscan Monastery of the Holy Land in America, this album is a glorious portrait of the pageantry and magnificence of the Venetian Republic at the sunset of its powers.

The Album drops on May 7, 2024 and is available on all streaming services. Studio quality downloads and CD are available from the Label.

Shelia Dietrich, Katelyn Grace Jackson, soprano; Hannah Baslee, Elisa Sutherland, mezzo-soprano; Oliver Mercer, Steven Soph, tenor; Edmund Milly, Andrew Padgett, bass-baritone; Adriane Post, concertmaster, Carrie Krause, violin; Doron Sherwin, Kiri Tollaksen, cornetto; William Simms, theorbo; Ezra Seltzer, cello; Adam Pearl, organ.
Matthew Robertson, conductor.

DPK: SoundCloud, printable covers, links to artist bios, audio: <https://bit.ly/3wmWjO6>

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Consumer Download Store and streaming links to Spotify, Apple:

acisproductions.com/the-thirteen-monteverdi-lost-vespers

Acis

MATTHEW ROBERTSON

American conductor Matthew Robertson (b. 1986) is the founder and driving force of the professional choir and orchestra The Thirteen, which he has led in more than two hundred concerts, two dozen concert tours, seven commercial recordings, and numerous world premieres. Noted for boundary-defying performances that “transfigure the listener” (*The Washington Post*), for his “incisive tempos and dramatic pacing,” (*Washington Classical Review*) and “flowing lines and dramatic climaxes” (*Fanfare*), Robertson’s kaleidoscopic artistic vision has led to acclaimed performances of a vast and varied repertoire, often featuring inspired use of staging and multimedia. Robertson’s boundless imagination led to The Thirteen’s winning the Most Creative Programming Award from the Greater Washington Area Choral Music Awards.

THE THIRTEEN

The Thirteen is a professional choir and orchestra celebrated for reimagining the potential of vocal music from many periods. Praised for performing with “striking color and richness” that “transfigures the listener” (*The Washington Post*) and “a tight and attractive vocal blend and excellent choral discipline” (*American Record Guide*), the ensemble has been at the forefront of invigorating performances of masterworks ranging from early chant to world premieres and the centuries in between. This is the ensemble’s fourth release on Acis and follows last year’s successful release of *Monteverdi Vespers of 1610*.

#lostvespers

<https://www.acisproductions.com/>

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