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## RIBERA Magnificats & motets

### Record and Artist Details

Composer or Director: Bernardino de Ribera

Genre: Vocal

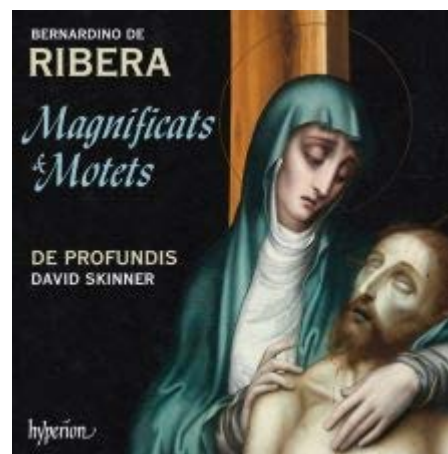
Label: Hyperion

Magazine Review Date: 09/2016

Media Format: CD or Download

Mastering: DDD

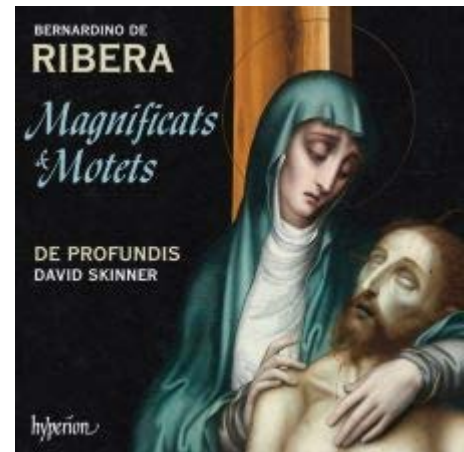
Catalogue Number: CDA68141



RIBERA Magnificats & motets

Bernardino de Ribera (c1520–?1580) is perhaps best known as the early mentor of Victoria, who he taught during his stint as choirmaster at Ávila. Little of his own music survives, but this recording presents a substantial proportion of what does, much of it preserved in a choirbook copied at Toledo after the musician had moved there from Ávila. Devoted to Ribera's works alone, the source was subsequently so wilfully damaged that a substantial proportion of its contents is lost or has necessitated reconstruction. This labour of love, and the championing of Ribera's cause generally, was undertaken by one of the pre-eminent scholars of Iberian music, Bruno Turner, who gives a touching account of it in the booklet-notes to this CD.

As Turner himself admits, there's not enough variety in what survives to claim Ribera as a top-flight composer, but his music is well made in the best sense, and while much of it may be reminiscent of other composers it is not merely derivative. The lament motets *Vox in Rama* and *Rex autem David* are worth singling out, and the three surviving *Magnificat* settings (part of a much larger set) are resourceful within a purposefully narrow stylistic range. Led by David Skinner and two-dozen strong, *De Profundis* sound robust and solemn rather than mournful, their all-male line-up a welcome change from today's treble-dominated norm in larger ensembles. While the music gives little scope for versatility, these solid, well-judged performances elevate Ribera from a mere footnote in music history to something more substantial. Victoria, perhaps, might be proud of his early master. F



RIBERA Magnificats &amp; motets

## RIBERA Magnificats & motets

Rex autem David

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Gloriosae virginis Mariae

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Beata mater

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Dimitte me ergo

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Magnificat primus tonus I

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Vox in Rama

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Regina caeli

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Magnificat secundus tonus I

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Virgo prudentissima

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Conserva me, Domine

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Assumpsit Jesus Petrum

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Magnificat quartus tonus II

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Hodie completi sunt dies  
Pentecostes

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