

ALBUM REVIEW

Classical: De Profundis/ Skinner

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De Profundis/Skinner

In Cambridge, meanwhile, David Skinner and the adult male choir De Profundis explore a much more shadowy figure: Bernardino de Ribera, the 16th-century organist of Toledo Cathedral. Sadly, the lavishly illuminated choirbook containing most of his music was desecrated and vital pages ripped out. The motets and Magnificats that survive complete, or have been reconstructed here, suggest Ribera was a considerable talent. One particular phrase — a descending chromatic figure in his motet *Rex autem David* — is as startling as Gesualdo, and everywhere there's a magnificent sense of textural control that looks forward to Tomás Luis de Victoria.

Hyperion