



## COMMENTS FROM THE PRESS

### 2011 International Tour with Philippe Jaroussky

Teatro Real (Royal Theatre), Madrid | Grand Théâtre de l'Opéra, Bordeaux  
Gulbenkian Fondation, Lisbon | Arsenal, Metz  
UCLA, Los Angeles | Royal Conservatory, Toronto | Duke University, Durham, NC  
Cal Performances, Berkeley/San Francisco | University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

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"It was immediately obvious that the evening would be a party, with fireworks in style. A standing ovation, as rarely happens at the Royal Theatre. The shadow of the American Louis Armstrong was evoked in spirit to perfection by his compatriots from Cleveland, Apollo's Fire Baroque Orchestra, thanks to some dazzling variations on the trio sonata "La Follia". These musicians rejuvenated the baroque for us with the spirit of jazz, and the joy of playing together.... Jeannette Sorrell conducted from the harpsichord with great precision, sensitivity and femininity. The concert was impeccable and the Royal Theatre was full to overflowing. It was one of those evenings that leaves you wanting more."

- J. Á. Vela del Campo, EL PAÍS (national newspaper of Spain), **Madrid**

"Easily one of the most enjoyable concerts of the season.... Part of the evening's success also flowed from the sense of artistic collaboration, as Apollo's Fire here was far more than a backup band. The group without Jaroussky played two Vivaldi concertos on the first half and later pulled out Sorrell's arrangement of Vivaldi's "La Follia" trio sonata, uncorking it like a Baroque party piece, dashed off from memory. These excellent young musicians take a highly gestural approach to phrasing and bring across their music with an exuberant physicality, like wind through a forest."

- Jeremy Eichler, THE BOSTON GLOBE

"Apollo's Fire's flair for drama was perhaps best displayed in a grand rumpus performance of Sorrell's arrangement of Vivaldi's *La Follia*. This party piece, played from memory, featured many steep and rapid changes in tone, texture and rhythmic character. One of the most interesting and rewarding recitals of the season."

- Robert Everett-Green, THE TORONTO GLOBE & MAIL

"People... crowded into Emmanuel Church for [Jaroussky's] concert with Apollo's Fire, Cleveland's premiere period-instrument ensemble, under the tight and lively direction of harpsichordist Jeannette Sorrell. Her positively demented improvisational arrangement of Vivaldi's setting of the famous AF

song "La folia" (Madness) was greeted with almost the same rapture as Jaroussky.

- Lloyd Schwartz, THE BOSTON PHOENIX

"A thrilling program. An enthusiastic audience called the singer and the ensemble back for three encores, each exquisitely rendered."

- Rick Schultz, THE LOS ANGELES TIMES

"Apollo's Fire, arriving in town to accompany the French countertenor Philippe Jaroussky at Hill Auditorium last night, proved every bit as alluring as the singer himself. In fact, it could be argued that one of those instrumental selections, Vivaldi's "La Follia," was an evening high point. With Sorrell leading from the harpsichord, the ensemble played these variations, based on a "Renaissance pop tune," with brio and style and more than a hint of the madness the title implies. It was delicious."

- Susan Isaacs Nisbett, ANN ARBOR.COM (formerly the Ann Arbor News)

"A... remarkable evening of music took place at Royce Hall [UCLA] last Friday... So much of it is rarely heard on concert stages, and even more rarely with the authenticity and bravura of the Apollo's Fire baroque orchestra. In the soaring voice and the gripping theatricality of Jaroussky's performances, and in the dynamic orchestral support of Apollo's Fire, one could experience a surprisingly convincing aura of what presentations of works such as *Oreste*, *Imeneo* and *Giustino* must have been like. Superbly accompanying Jaroussky, Apollo's Fire also added equally gripping musical moments of their own. Done brilliantly and memorably."

- INTERNATIONAL REVIEW OF MUSIC (online publication)

"Oh, Give Me a Muse of Apollo's Fire...! There are concerts that stick in one's memory forever. Apollo's Fire's joint concert with the spectacular countertenor Philippe Jaroussky, entitled *Handel and Vivaldi Fireworks*, will be exactly that... The audience went wild after each piece Jaroussky sang. We knew this was an Apollo's Fire concert to remember.... I believe it might be the beginning of, as they say, a beautiful friendship. "

- THE ARTS FUSE: The Culture of New England (Boston, MA)

"Unerring Style from Jaroussky, Apollo's Fire... Dazzling flights of melody, which Jaroussky executed at breakneck speed with flawless accuracy. Jaroussky combines superior musicianship and an unerring sense of style with a superb vocal instrument, a winning combination. Jeannette Sorrell led the mostly young, mostly female and – in every sense of the word – stylish group of string players from the harpsichord."

- THE MUSICAL INTELLIGENCER - Virginia Newes, editor (Boston, MA)

"The singing was from start to finish extraordinary - no other single word will suffice. He sang with Apollo's Fire, the baroque orchestra that Sorrell has made one of the finest in the world. This was the first joint appearance of the singer and this orchestra, but it cannot be the last."

- John W. Lambert, CVNC (CLASSICAL VOICE OF NORTH CAROLINA), Durham

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