



EUROPEAN TOUR MAY 2014 – COMMENTS FROM THE PRESS

"An evening of superlative music-making. The group's director, harpsichordist Jeannette Sorrell, put together an ingenious programme which showed off the ensemble's range of colour, mood and style... playful and flexible. Each piece found its own special colour. Another engaging thing about this group is that it combines European stylishness with "can-do" American entrepreneurship. They seize on unlikely things like American folk music and recreate it with foot-stomping brio - as their first encore showed. And Sorrell arranged [Vivaldi's *La Folia*] for the full band and the results were thrilling. The players' agile grace and unforced lyrical energy made them ideal partners for soprano Sandrine Piau."

- THE TELEGRAPH, LONDON

"Maverick energy... Artistic Director Jeannette Sorrell knows her repertoire well, and chose a wonderful selection of works to showcase her band. It was great to see the music stands put away for this dancing, stamping piece of musical madness [Vivaldi's *La Folia* arranged by Sorrell]. The group are natural communicators. Apollo's Fire are a wonderful antidote to too much British baroque."

- THE ARTS DESK, LONDON

"A brilliant concert - baroque blues historically interpreted"

- NEUE VORARLBERGER TAGESZEITUNG, (THE NEW ALPINE DAILY), AUSTRIA

"Apollo's Fire brought a type of American bohemian chic which was a refreshing change from the more staid, often po-faced, British baroque bands. Led by exuberant, flame-haired Jeannette Sorrell, they were flamboyant and fun. And boy, they can play, too. Their party piece - Vivaldi's trio sonata *La Folia* arranged as an increasingly frenetic dancing concerto grosso by Sorrell - energetically rounded off a hugely enjoyable concert."

- THE BIRMINGHAM POST, UK

"The ever-growing reputation of Apollo's Fire - an ensemble based in Cleveland, Ohio - ensured a substantial and very appreciative audience. This well-planned programme demonstrated to perfection the players' high artistry. The opening movement of Vivaldi's *Concerto in D*, [arranged by Sorrell] served as a lively opener in which all of the musicians' stylishness and virtuosity were on display. One immediately sense the intense rapport between the players, and between them and Jeannette Sorrell. The most stunning orchestra item was Sorrell's arrangement of Vivaldi's trio-sonata "La Folia" (Madness). The playing became evermore abandoned until, with tapped cellos adding to the riot of sound, the piece whirled towards a boisterously exhilarating climax. This was a supremely satisfying concert on every level. A further appearance in London by Apollo's Fire would be very welcome."

- CLASSICALSOURCE.COM, LONDON