CULTURE

Vivaldi

The Four Seasons; Sonata in D minor “La Folia”
Francisco Fullana (violin), Apollo’s Fire, dir Jeannette Sorrell
Avie

After “countless” live performances of this most famous of baroque collections, Sorrell and her dazzling period band from Cleveland commit Vivaldi’s concertos to disc. The musical results are revelatory. Sorrell’s booklet notes, which conclude that Vivaldi wrote his most famous pieces for Venice’s Ospedale della Pietà, are as fascinating as her soloist Fullana’s virtuosic playing, but it’s her orchestra’s incandescence — graphic in the “barking dog” movement of Spring, exhilarating in Summer’s cascading rainstorm — that makes this essential listening.

Hugh Canning