



## Nordic Voices

### CD Reviews

*Classic FM Magazine*

“...sublime performances...”

*Lamentations* \* Nordic Voices \* Chandos Chaconne CHAN0763

Polyphonic settings of the Old Testament mourning verses of Jeremiah spread like wildfire during the 16<sup>th</sup> century, creating a distinguished repertoire of works associated with the haunting Holy Week service of Tenebrae. Nordic Voices offers a selection drawn from the finest Lamentations, opening with four expressive settings by Victoria and shaping sublime performances of a pair of Gesualdo's tortured Tenebrae Responses. There's a simple eloquence about the singing, part product of refined corporate musicianship, part of allowing expressive effects to speak naturally without affectation. Top-class work from Norway's leading vocal ensemble. **AS**  
Chandos CHAN 0763

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This whole album is beautifully conceived and presented with its message made clear by the stark cover-image of the aftermath of a vehicle bomb at a Baghdad checkpoint in 2004. Keen to remind us that amidst all this suffering there are rays of hope, Nordic Voices donate a portion of their royalties from the sales of their disc to UNICEF 'to help achieve a better existence' for children innocently caught in today's conflicts. ...

It is rather enlightening to hear Nordic Voices sing this repertoire so well. For so long recordings of renaissance vocal works have been dominated by the English choral scene (and similar continental groups) that they have become fixed in a very particular sound-word. Whilst Nordic Voices are not so very different from the English style, subtle differences in pronunciation affect the overall texture by bringing a new palette of colours to familiar harmonies and a very brilliant sheen to their tuning.

All of the singers are very expressive and clearly have formidable techniques.... With the combination of thoughtful programming and skilful singing Nordic Voices remind us that these *Lamentations* have a relevant message in today's world. Using lamentations to signify hope in this way not only makes for a beautiful album but also gives us listeners much to think about.  
By Ed Breen