



Lassus: Lagrime di San Pietro – The Tears of St Peter

Gallicantus, Gabriel

Crouch (d)

Signum Classics SIGCD339



Everything Gallicantus touches seems to turn to gold: following acclaimed recordings of motets by musical correspondents William Byrd and Philippe de Monte – and of music marking the death of the son of James I, Henry – this disc of Lassus's cycle of Petrine lamentation is stunning. A large part of the appeal comes from the wonderfully blended all-male sound – countertenors Mark Chambers and David Allsopp cover the whole stave with ease, supported by a rich scaffolding of tenors, baritones and low, low bass. They all avoid the trap of colouring the vernacular madrigals with the same tones as the closing Latin motet. As director Gabriel Crouch reminds us in his note, we shouldn't forget that Lassus did not shy away from treating of the earthier aspects of life in his music. **AH**

