

Subject: Camerata Ama Deus Review
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Camerata Ama Deus, Soloists & V.R. Do It Again!!!

Another Stunning Review

NOTEWORTHY/Chestnut Hill LOCAL

by Michael Caruso

via e-mail for print on June 7, 2012

Romanian-born **Valentin Radu** conducted the **Camerata Ama Deus** in “Vivaldissimo” Friday night in the Episcopal Church of St. Martin-in-the-Fields in Chestnut Hill. The period instruments ensemble offered a tantalizing survey of six concerti and one sinfonia by the most famous of all Italian baroque composers. For many music lovers, in fact, Antonio Vivaldi is the one-and-only Italian composer of the baroque, the musician whose set of four violin concerti, “The Four Seasons,” defines the genre.

While not even one of those four concerti was programmed Friday evening, those that were performed are among the finest Vivaldi ever composed, and several of those received *absolutely exquisite renditions*.

Best of all was the *Concerto for Viola d’amore in A major, RV 396*, featuring **Paul Miller** as soloist. Written for a member of the viol family of string instruments that boasted six resonating metal strings placed beneath six bowed gut strings, the viola d’amore is a fascinating instrument that produces a tone that is both sweet and intimate on one hand and forceful and virtuosic on the other. Miller caught both sides of its personality in playing that efficaciously delineated the character of each of the concerto’s three movements: effervescent in the first, pastoral in the second, and energetic in the third.

Very nearly as lovely a work is the *Concerto for Recorder in G minor, RV 439*, and soloist

Rainer Beckman gave its three movements an engaging reading. He caught the stately elegance of the first movement, the fantastical fleetness of the second, and the shimmering bravura of the third.

Oboist **Sarah Davol** was heard to excellent advantage in the *Concerto for Oboe in D minor, RV 454*. She expertly projected the shifting accents of the first movement, the limpid eloquence of the second, and the quirky angularity of the third.

Radu led the ensemble in a commanding performance of the *Sinfonia No. 3 in G major, 149*, and the *Concerto for Two Violins in A minor* – perhaps Vivaldi's greatest concerto – brought the evening to a dazzling close.