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Francesco Feo SAN FRANCESCO DI SALES Monica Piccinini Roberta Mameli Delphine Galou Luca Tittoto Stuttgarter Kammerorchester Fabio Biondi	GCD 923409	PC: 021
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Fabio Biondi's immense curiosity for characterful music – especially of forgotten scores from the Baroque – yields another fabulous surprise with Francesco Feo's oratorio *San Francesco di Sales*. Feo's reputation is at last starting to wax after having waned dramatically in the nineteenth century and thenceforward: in his own age he was compared very highly with Bach and Handel, and Charles Burney was moved to describe his vocal music as being "full of fire and invention and force in the melody and expression of the words"; Feo was also a boon companion of Pergolesi. He wrote both operas (such as *Siface* – which had a libretto by Metastasio) and church music, with compositions which demanded significant vocal virtuosity from his performers.

San Francesco di Sales: apostolo del Chablais is a set of reflections and imagery on the work of this inspirational Catholic Bishop of Geneva from the turn of the seventeenth century, and the oratorio probably saw the light of day in 1734.

This new release, further evidence of Glossa's commitment to the music of the Neapolitan Baroque, presents Fabio Biondi directing the highly-versatile forces of the **Stuttgarter Kammerorchester** and four of today's brightest and most stylish voices as the oratorio's soloists: sopranos **Monica Piccinini** and **Roberta Mameli**, contralto **Delphine Galou**, and bass **Luca Tittoto**. Ample opportunity is also provided in Feo's score for instrumental virtuosity, and Biondi's own abundant violinistic flair is much to the fore here.