

## Recordings

Giuseppe Apolloni *L'ebreo*: Issachar Simone Alaimo; Leila Fernanda Costa; Adel-Muza Dino Di Domenico; Ferdinando Armando Caforio; Isabella Paola Bidinelli; *Gran'Giudice/Boabdil-El-Chic* Francesco Piccoli. Orchestra Sinfonica di San Remo, Coro "Francesco Cilea" di Reggio Calabria, cond. Massimo De Bernart. Recorded live at the T.Chiabrera di Savona 29/31 October 1989.

BONGIOVANNI GB 2089/90-2

The current flood of live recordings from Italy, so meritorious in preserving rare and elusive works in this bland Mozartian era, has had the curious effect of attaching certain recording firms to certain musical centres or festivals. Thus, the Bolognese firm of Bongiovanni has (it seems) the brave *incarico* of recording the rarities emerging yearly from Savona. The CD above is evidence of the happy results, though Bongiovanni must be one of the slowest in actually issuing the discs, and the discs are not readily available. This *L'ebreo*, for example, though issued months ago, has never been on sale in Britain to the best of my knowledge and these poor islanders are the even poorer as a consequence. Perhaps the Channel Tunnel will attach us to Bologna in the years to come as well as to Calais.

Bongiovanni's technical standards are generally good, the presentation is standard (brown print), the liner notes are variable, those for *L'esule di Roma* were awful (wrong and misleading). This *L'ebreo* is thoroughly recommendable, true to the performance described in Newsletter 49. Sound is theatrical, voices true to life, notes (written ones that is) clear and informative. If you can find it buy it!

(Bongiovanni discs can often be found at the Coliseum Shop in St.Martin's Lane, London, sometimes also at Tower Records, Piccadilly Circus. They are cheaper in Britain generally than abroad, hence, no doubt, the lack of enthusiasm for selling them here, undercutting the prices paid by foreign visitors)

Alexander Weatherson