



<b>Michel-Richard de Lalande</b> <b>GRANDS MOTETS</b>  Les Pages & les Chantres du Centre de musique baroque de Versailles Collegium Marianum Olivier Schneebeli Et al.	<b>GCD 924301</b>	<b>PC: 01Q</b>
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One of the great composing figures from the French Baroque, Michel-Richard de Lalande is starting to receive his just dues through modern recordings, and Glossa is happy to unveil a new release featuring **Olivier Schneebeli** directing **Les Pages et Les Chantres du Centre de Musique Baroque de Versailles** in three of Lalande's sumptuous grands motets. Very much a favoured composer during the reign of Louis XIV, Lalande progressively assumed – from the 1680s onwards – more and more of the principal court offices, and was called upon to provide sacred music for the Chapelle Royale within the Château de Versailles. Although the new (and 'definitive') chapel was not consecrated until 1710, the trio of grands motets (extended multi-movement choral and solo settings, typically of Psalms, with instrumental accompaniment) recorded here will have been conceived of according to the chapel's architectural and acoustical characteristics. Thomas Leconte, from the CMBV, provides an illuminating historical backdrop in his booklet essay. Much detailed performing information from Lalande's time is known today – including number of instrumental forces used and about the composer's later revisions of his scores – and Venite, exultemus Domino, De profundis and Dominus regnavit all receive expressive and meticulously-prepared performances within the Chapelle Royale itself. To the quality of preparation of the CMBV maîtrise can be added the presence of a quartet of vocal soloists deeply experienced in the style of music from this time: Chantal Santon-Jeffery, Reinoud Van Mechelen, François Joron and Lisandro Abadie. Likewise, the contribution of Jana Semerádová's Collegium Marianum provides exemplary instrumental support to Schneebeli's direction in this new CMBV production.