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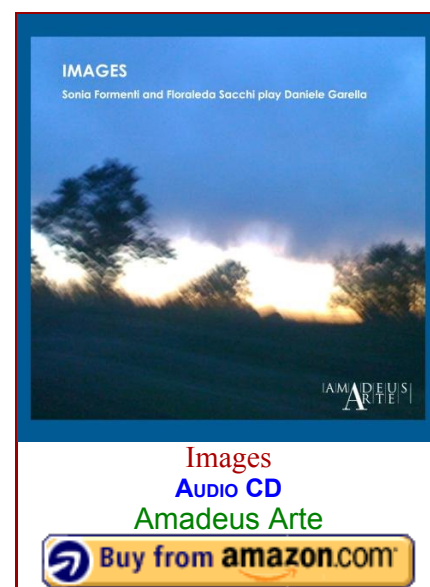
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CD Review by Lynn René Bayley

GARELLA *Ecco la primavera. Dans une grotte du Sabarthés. Images of Isles. Canto nel vento. Paysage du Languedoc. Sera nel giardino. Lullaby* • Sonia Formenti (fl); Floraleda Sacchi (hp) • AMADEUS ARTE 11005 (31:17)

As soon as this CD (titled *Images*) started playing, I had that bad feeling: This is New Age Music. Tinkly harp, lyrical flute, the elements are all there; but as the first piece, *Ecco la primavera* (Here is spring) came to its conclusion, I realized that Daniele Garella, born in Florence (I learned online) is actually a pretty good composer. This music is relaxing and meditative, but not too airy to be taken seriously. The inclusion of nature sounds (birds, insects, and waves) adds to the ambience. It also turned out that Garella, who studied at the Cherubini Conservatory in his native city, has been writing what he terms healing music since the mid 1990s and is also an author, having written the historical novel *Jordan Viach the Cathar*. He has also composed music for RAI and the Ministry of Public Entertainment. Not a heavyweight CD, then, by any means, and I felt disappointed and a little cheated by the short playing time (31 minutes? Heck, I had 8-track tapes longer than that!), but lovely music that somehow manages to elude the label of treacle and retain its integrity. If you'd like some quality music to meditate to or just play when you're stressed, this is a fine disc, and both flautist Formenti and harpist Sacchi play very well here.



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Lynn René Bayley

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