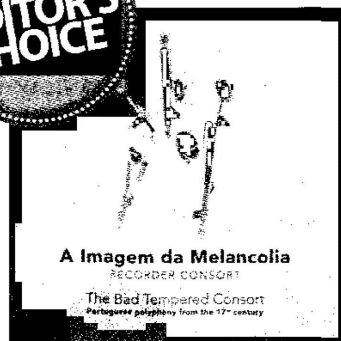


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**THE BAD TEMPERED CONSORT:
PORTUGUESE POLYPHONY FROM
THE 17TH CENTURY**

A Imagem da Melancolia

Recorder Consort

Challenge Records CC72321



Ignore the strange title; this is a stunning album, with the finest recorder consort playing I have heard. The music too is superb. You may be surprised that any 17th-century Portuguese recorder consort music survives, but what director Pedro Sousa Silva has done is to arrange polyphonic organ music of the period. Some pieces are played, as expected, at 4' pitch (sounding an octave higher than written);

others at 8' pitch and incorporating a gigantic great bass recorder, while yet others have recorders doubling at the octave, imitating 8' and 4' organ stops. The unanimity in rapid divisions is breathtaking. Silva also occasionally incorporates, to great effect, a soprano voice (Magna Ferreira) to double the plainchant *cantus firmus*. And that title? It's an allusion to the problems of temperament and tuning in playing consort music with recorder families that are tuned a fifth apart. Tuning here though is immaculate. **JB**

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