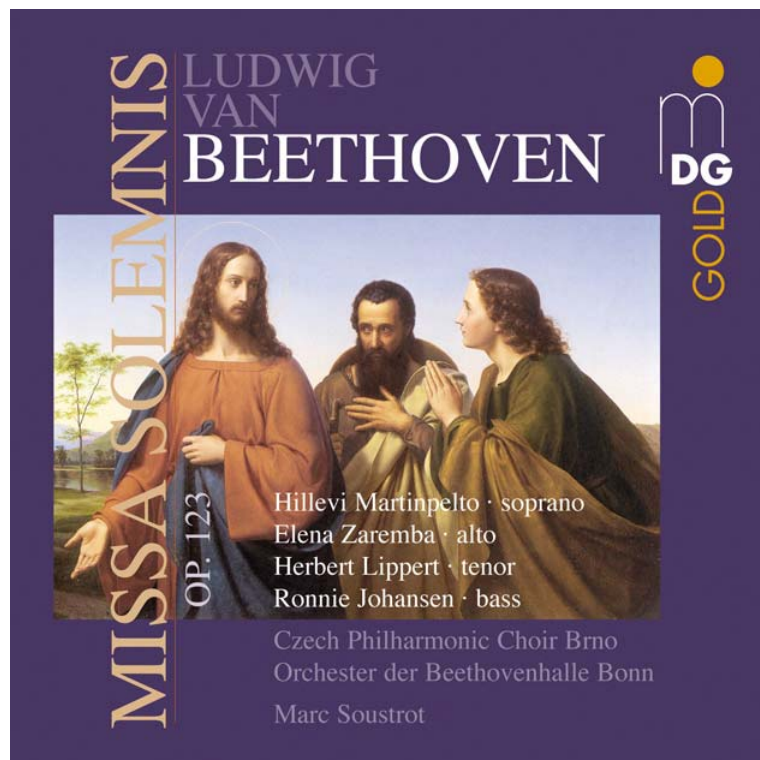


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MDG
GOLD



09/18-(5)

Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827)
Missa Solemnis op. 123
(+ Bonus Tracks)

Hillevi Martinpelto, soprano
Elena Zaremba, alto
Herbert Lippert, tenor
Ronnie Johansen, bass
Czech Philharmonic Choir Brno,
Orchester der Beethovenhalle Bonn
Marc Soustrot, dir.

2 CDs at the price of 1

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LC06768

A large cast

On this CD the Beethoven Hall Orchestra turns to one of the most important compositions of the oratorio literature: Beethoven's *Missa solemnis*. This recording conducted by Marc Soustrot with his customary fine touch features top-ranking international vocalists: the Czech Philharmonic Chorus of Brno, and renowned soloists. A re-release was long overdue.

"A Little Choral Piece"

The Bonn composition genius himself had entitled his *Missa solemnis* this way. Was it really Christian humility that let him write in his diary in 1815: "A little choral piece - written by me in the honour of the Almighty - the Eternal Infinite"?

A big break

Beethoven wrote the mass during what was for him a crazy period. Works regarded by him as insignificant such as *Wellington's Victory op. 91* and the cantata *Der glorreiche Augenblick op. 136* met with storms of enthusiasm in Vienna, while he had to witness how his considerably more important *Symphony No. 7* verged on failure. Beethoven withdrew from the compositional scene for quite some time, then to return in his late oeuvre with works transcending all that was usual: the *Symphony No. 9*, *String Quartet in C sharp minor op. 131*, *Hammerklavier Sonata*, and *Missa solemnis*.

A good reputation

"The choir is the real star of the recording: the singers effortlessly master the extremely high passages, always supported by the precise playing orchestra" (Crescendo) - "An excellent balance between choir, orchestra and soloists and very beautiful tones" (Stereo) - "Finely performed... a deep, spacious recording of wide dynamic range with all forces nicely balanced" (Gramophone)

The BOB plays Ludwig van Beethoven:

Symphony No. 1 & 5: **MDG 937 1756-6**
Symphony No. 2: **MDG 937 1977-6**
Symphony No. 3: **MDG 937 1966-6**
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Symphony No. 9: **MDG 937 1899-6**
Symphony No. 4 & 7: **MDG 937 1995-6**



Franz Liszt: Christus

(Oratorio for Soli, Choir, Orchestra and Organ)
Soloists, Czech Philharmonic Choir Brno,
Christoph Anselm Noll, organ
Beethoven Orchester Bonn
Roman Kofman, dir.

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