



SU 4237-2

1 CD

New recording

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**MARTINŮ
MADRIGALS**

Martinů Voices, choirmaster Lukáš Vasilek

Grażyna Biernot – soprano solo

Jakub Fišer – violin

Karel Košárek – piano

Recorded at the Martinů Hall of the Music and Dance Faculty of the Academy of Performing Arts, Prague, 19 March, 23, 24 April, 14, 15 and 28 Mai, 1, 2 October, 2016 and 7, 8 January 2017.

“You know I am not a ‘chorus’ composer ... although I may have made a few good choral pieces, I always somewhat hesitate whether I should plunge into them.” Notwithstanding his humility, Bohuslav Martinů truly loved choral singing. When composing, he mainly drew inspiration from traditional music. He kept returning to the texts from František Sušil’s collection of Moravian folk songs, a copy of which he always kept with him during his travels. In addition to their rhythmicity and modality, he was fascinated by the archetypal themes they treated, their grace and conciseness, as well as the directness, devoid of *“metaphysics and pathos”*, and, above all, the subject of love in a variety of forms – happy and ill-fated, unrequited, betrayed ...

The present recording features the complete choral works Martinů intended (according to a number of sources) for chamber formations. Even though created over a great time span, between 1934 and 1959 (the composer only completed the *Madrigals* shortly before his death), all the pieces attest to the genius and sensitivity with which Martinů was able to handle the folk texts and furnish them with a new musical form – simple, spirited and majestic alike.



Lukáš Vasilek and Martinů Voices have made the best of the autograph scores, getting as close as possible to the composer's intentions, in all the articulation and dynamic nuances. Following the highly acclaimed CD of the cantatas (Supraphon SU 4198-2), the current recording provides yet another insight into Bohuslav Martinů's fascinating universe.

Bohuslav Martinů's complete choral works, recorded in uncompromising quality.

BOHUSLAV MARTINŮ (1890–1959)

MADRIGALS (H 380, 1959)

10:08

for soprano solo and mixed chorus a cappella

1/ On the other Bank of the Danube	1:57
2/ Lo, a grove	2:38
3/ Nothing lasts in this world	3:19
4/ So you think	2:13

PRIMROSE (H 348, 1954)

6:29

for female chorus, violin and piano

5/ The new hat	0:57
6/ In front of our yard	1:12
7/ The complaint	1:55
8/ A nice piece of wood	1:33
9/ Noon	0:51

CZECH MADRIGALS (H 278, 1939)

17:34

for mixed chorus a cappella

10/ Lo, off we go	2:01
11/ Let's go	1:36
12/ Let me know, Lord	3:29
13/ Hey! We've got goods to sell	2:14
14/ My head is aching	2:24
15/ We love each other	1:53
16/ How do I feel	2:14
17/ Once more	1:43

THREE SACRED SONGS (H 339, 1951)

9:34

for female chorus and violin

18/ The Nativity	2:20
19/ The Ascension of the Lord	4:25
20/ The path to paradise	2:48

FOUR SONGS ABOUT THE VIRGIN MARY (H 235, 1934)

10:17

for mixed chorus a cappella / pro smíšený sbor a cappella

21/ Annunciation	1:31
22/ The dream	2:03
23/ Virgin Mary's breakfast	3:03
24/ Icon of the Virgin Mary	3:39

SUPRAPHON New Release January 2018



FIVE CZECH MADRIGALS (*H 321, 1948*)

5:16

for mixed chorus a cappella

25/ The message delivered by the dove

1:18

26/ My aching head

1:07

27/ Geese floating on water

0:59

28/ Riding to see my love

1:05

29/ Spells and calumnies

0:46