



## THE INTERNATIONALLY RENOWNED ENSEMBLE BERLIN PRAG PROVIDE A NOVEL VIEW OF ONE OF THE GEMS OF THE BAROQUE MASTER JAN DISMAS ZELENKA

On 19<sup>th</sup> January 2018, Supraphon released a double album made by the international Ensemble Berlin Prag, featuring six sonatas for two oboes, bassoon and basso continuo by Jan Dismas Zelenka, a major late-Baroque composer. The project was

initiated by the Czech oboist Vilém Veverka, who has also participated in the role of producer, and has been implemented in collaboration with Reinhard Goebel, an esteemed connoisseur in historically informed performance of Baroque music. A month prior to its release, Ensemble Berlin Prag presented the new album within a concert at the Berliner Philharmonie hall.

Zelenka's sonatas are among his "free" works, which he wrote urged by innermost needs, above and beyond his official commitments. The pieces reach the very limits of musical possibilities – both as regards placing high technical requirements on the performers and the compositional methods and means of expression applied, including the striking architecture of the cycle as a whole. The result is magnificent and fascinating indeed; owing to its complexity and timelessness, the sonatas may perhaps only be compared with J. S. Bach's six cello suites. And when these gems are undertaken by musicians as open-minded and of such superlative quality as those making up the Ensemble Berlin Prag (three of them members of the Berliner Philharmoniker), the listener can look forward to a great feast. The present recording is extraordinary due to the combination of the technical facilities of modern instruments and the profound insight into Baroque performance.

One of the founders of Ensemble Berlin Prag, the oboist Vilém Veverka, said: "*The album has rounded off our long-time endeavours, and I do believe it to be an extraordinary accomplishment. I personally consider the recording to be the most significant of the projects I have worked on so far. I feel happy that we have succeeded in carrying such a challenging thing into effect, and I hope that it will also bring joy to the listeners.*" Another of the founding members of Ensemble Berlin Prag, the Berliner Philharmoniker oboist Dominik Wollenweber, added: "*The album is the fruit of the intensive work of friends. Yet when we were at the studio, we absolutely focused on the music, and the recording process was far from easy. We worked hard, and that is perhaps why the outcome is so intense and expressive.*"

For further details please visit:  
[www.ensemble-berlin-prag.com](http://www.ensemble-berlin-prag.com)

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