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Das Lieben bringt groß Freud!

German Folk Songs by
Friedrich Silcher
Max Reger
Moritz Käsmeyer

amarcord
Leipziger Streichquartett

1 CD

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Starry Heights

Two star ensembles from Leipzig's musical universe now join forces. The amarcord ensemble schooled in the whole of the polyphonic a cappella repertoire and the Leipzig String Quartet normally soaring up to the classical heights present a surprising program: the German folk song in the highest artistic perfection.

Vocal Simplicity

The musicians from Leipzig present three different currents, one of which includes songs by Philipp Friedrich Silcher, who was active as a church musician in Swabia at the beginning of the nineteenth century. He arranged traditional folk melodies in simple fashion for easy singing along and composed works of his own. Even Schubert's "Lindenbaum" first gained wide dissemination through Silcher's easy-to-grasp and above all easy-to-sing version.

Instrumental Complexity

Moritz Käsmeyer pursued an instrumental project in Vienna during the middle of the nineteenth century. He took simple folk songs or popular tunes such as "O du lieber Augustin" and shaped them into virtuoso fun for skilled instrumentalists. Even today Käsmeyer is praised in music lexica for his "solid compositional technique" and his "strongly humorous-parodic vein."

To the Max

Max Reger turned to folk songs almost a hundred years after Silcher. During a period of convalescence in his native Upper Palatinate, the composer wrote arrangements of "Der Tod als Schnitter" and "Wenn ich ein Vöglein wär" on the basis of traditional sources. But Reger would not have been Reger if he had not left the usual harmony far behind him: only a very few male choirs can master songs in B major with five accidentals – as is the case in "Ich ging durch einen grasgrünen Wald".