



04/01-(5)

Title:

Louis Spohr
Overture op. 12
Quartet Concerto op. 131
Nonet op. 31

Musicians:

Leipziger Streichquartett
Ensemble Villa Musica
Leipziger Kammerorchester
Cond.: Sebastian Weigle

Number of CDs: 1

Order Number:

MDG 307 0849-2

UPC-Code:



Supreme Challenge

Each of the three ensembles featured on this recording is a heavyweight in its own right, and together they represent a supreme challenge to the static forces of the international concert world. The Leipzig String Quartet, Ensemble Villa Musica, and Leipzig Chamber Orchestra show what they can do in these compositions of orchestral dimensions by the early romantic composer Louis Spohr.

Versatile Musician

The child of the turn of the century would have been the greatest violinist of his era if not for a certain fellow by the name of Paganini. Unlike the Italian daredevil violinist, however, Louis Spohr ranks as the most versatile musician of the early nineteenth century. He trained countless violinists, composers, and conductors and in this way made an important contribution to the music culture of a whole continent.

Romantic Emotion

Spohr's magnificent Overture op. 12 is bold and richly dissonant and points ahead to a new sound world, that of the romantic period. Spohr's overture did indeed become the "Tristan Prelude" of the Beethoven era. The Leipzig Thomaskantor Moritz Hauptmann recalled decades later that it had moved him to tears at its premiere.

New Genre

Shortly after the premiere of his Nonet op. 31 Spohr advanced to the post of director at the famous Theater an der Wien in the Austrian metropolis of Vienna. With this work he created a new genre which would encourage composers like Brahms to undertake the composition of works of similar instrumentation. The nonet too was no light fare for Spohr's contemporaries; even a revolutionary like Beethoven found Spohr's harmony "rather rich in dissonances."

Summa Summarum

The CD reviews of MDG top-ranking ensembles like the Leipzig String Quartet and Ensemble Villa Musica speak for themselves: the summa summarum of more than forty recording prizes.

W. A. Mozart: String Quartets

KV 575, 589 & 590

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Louis Spohr: Septet op. 147, Quintet op. 130

Ensemble Villa Musica

MDG 304 0534-2

**NOMINATION
CANNES CLASSICAL AWARD**