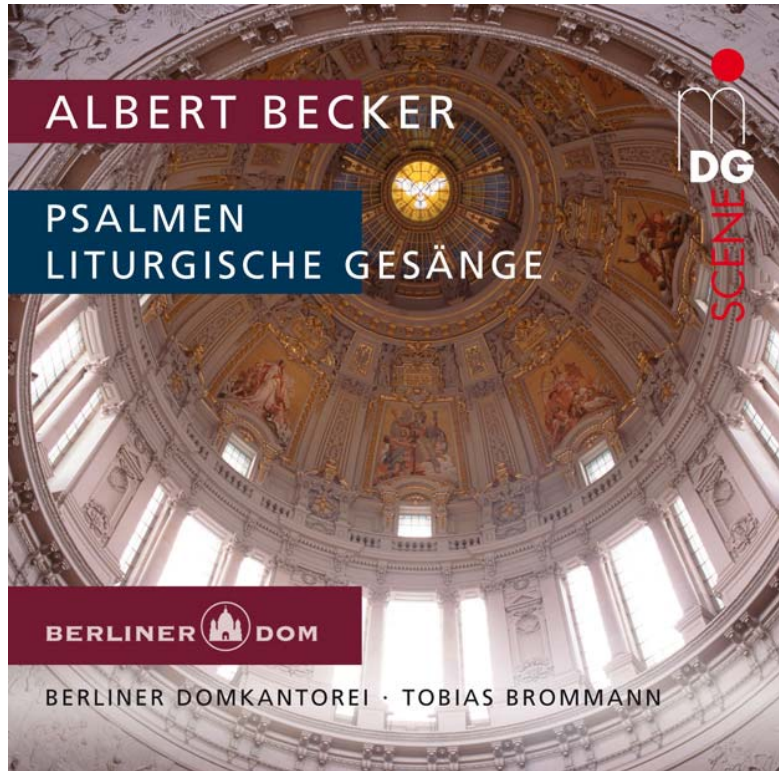


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04/09-(5)

Titel:

Albert Becker (1834-1899)
Psalms and Liturgical Songs

Musicians:

Berliner Domkantorei
Tobias Brommann, cond.

1 Hybrid-SACD

222[®]
RECORDING

Order Number:

MDG 946 1561-6

UPC-Code:



Light and Shadow

The Berliner Domkantorei conducted by Tobias Brommann sheds light on an important chapter in Berlin's music history with interpretations of liturgical songs and motets by Albert Becker. The committed singers pay homage to the former director of the Berlin Cathedral Choir and brilliantly convey his four-part to eight-part choral works to a broader public.

Romanticism and More

Albert Becker, born in Quedlinburg in 1834, was active as a music teacher and composer in Berlin during the second half of the nineteenth century before becoming the conductor of the richly traditional cathedral choir in 1889, a post once held by Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy. Shortly thereafter he was invited to serve as Thomaskantor in Leipzig but declined this offer at the emperor's request. As a contemporary of Verdi, Bruckner, Liszt, and Brahms, Becker was deeply rooted in romanticism, but his liturgical works in particular repeatedly drew on baroque and classical elements.

Heaven and Hell

Within the smallest space Becker combines most highly filigree music and text. His extremely demanding motets realize an independent artistic ambition and also find their place in a festive liturgy. The joy at the resurrection as well as the triumph over hell's sting are heard in his mighty, eight-part psalm settings for double choir – a broad expressive range requiring the highest measure of enthusiastic representational energy from the choir.

East and West

The Berliner Domkantorei was founded immediately after the building of the Berlin Wall in 1961. The singers of the former Church of the Reconciliation, whose place of worship was stranded in the no man's land between East and West and ended up being demolished, gathered together to form the choir. Even though the choir experienced its share of state repression prior to the fall of the wall, it was able to develop into an ambitious ensemble of 140 male and female vocalists who today perform primarily in the Berlin Cathedral.

Charles Tournemire (1870-1939)

Cinq Improvisations (reconstructed Maurice Duruflé, 1958), Dix Pièces (dans le style libre), Petite rhapsodie improvisée etc.

Andreas Sieling, Sauer Organ of the Berlin Cathedral 1905

Schola der Berliner Domkantorei (T. Brommann)

MDG 946 1514-6 (SACD)