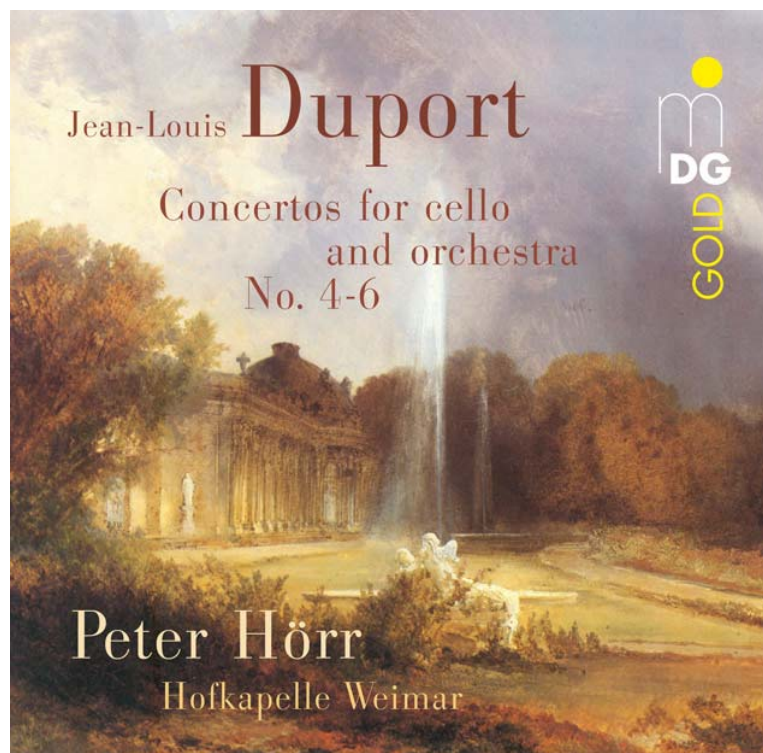


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09/09-(5)

Title:

Jean-Louis Duport (1749-1819)
Concertos No. 4, 5 and 6
for Violoncello and Orchestra

Musicians:

Peter Hörr, violoncello and cond.
Hofkapelle Weimar

1 Hybrid-SACD

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RECORDING

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Concerto Surprise

The twenty-one études of Jean-Louis Duport belong to the standard repertoire of every aspiring cellist. Peter Hörr now surprises us with three concertos for violoncello and orchestra from the second half of the eighteenth century by this French composer. Until recently the concertos lay slumbering in the archives; on this CD the multifaceted Hörr, in his dual role as conductor of the Hofkapelle Weimar and solo cellist, presents their recording premiere.

Sensational Career

Jean-Louis Duport, born in Paris in 1749, was one of the most famous cellists of his time and owed his career to his brother and teacher Jean-Pierre, a recognized cello virtuoso who was eight years his senior. Jean-Louis debuted at seventeen in the Concerts spirituels. He later became acquainted with the famous Italian violinist Viotti, who arranged for him to perform before Queen Marie Antoinette. The French Revolution forced Duport to leave his native Paris in 1789. He followed his brother to Berlin to serve as a chamber musician in the royal court ensemble and as the solo cellist at the Berlin opera. When the Napoleonic Wars brought this phase to an end, Duport went on concert tours, was hired by the Munich court orchestra, and then returned to Paris in 1806, where he served in the court orchestra of Louis XVIII and as a professor at the conservatory until his death.

Supreme Challenge

Duport's three cello concertos adhere to the classical form with three movements: allegro, a slow middle movement, and a rondeau. The highly virtuosic technique frequently required of the soloist in the soprano register may be one reason why they were not played all too often. But what a wealth of affections and emotions we find in the solo parts composed by Duport for his own performance! A string orchestra complemented by a few wind instruments makes for a colorful and striking contrast.

Cello Stratosphere

The French cello virtuoso finds a very worthy successor in Peter Hörr, who has rocketed to the German cello stratosphere, made a name for himself as a soloist and chamber musician, and is an esteemed college teacher whose master classes are "sold out" months in advance. Hörr is also a founding member of the internationally successful Mozart Piano Quartet. Since 2008 he has conducted the Hofkapelle Weimar, an ensemble bringing together young, inspired artists from leading music colleges and orchestras and now celebrating its splendid debut.