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03/10-(6)

Frank Martin (1890-1974)
Six Monologues from "Jedermann"
Suite from "Der Sturm"
Symphonie Concertante

Thomas Oliemans, baritone
Stavanger Symphony Orchestra
Steven Sloane, cond.

222[®]
RECORDING

1 Hybrid-SACD

Order No.: MDG 901 1614-6

UPC-Code:



LC06768

International Expedition

This MDG recording adds the Swiss composer Frank Martin's works for full orchestra to the multifaceted catalogue of his works. The Symphony Orchestra of the Norwegian harbor town of Stavanger under its principal conductor Steven Sloane presents *Six Monologues from "Jedermann"*, the suite from the opera *The Tempest*, and the *Symphonie concertante*. A further discovery: the sonorous baritone voice of Thomas Oliemans.

Instant Fascination

Frank Martin always maintained close ties to the music theater, with mystery plays forming his special predilection in this field. It is thus hardly surprising that he was instantly enchanted by the performance of *Jedermann* (Everyman) on the Salzburg Cathedral Square. He dedicated six monologues to the main character, first in a version for baritone and piano and then later in the orchestral version recorded here.

Original Transformations

The *Petite symphonie concertante* goes back to a request from the Basel patron of the arts and conductor Paul Sacher. Martin initially composed a work for chamber orchestra with solo inserts for piano, harp, and harpsichord and then later the present version for full orchestra. Shakespeare's comedy *The Tempest* was a source of great fascination for the composer. He first transformed five songs by the air sprite Ariel into a magical music for a cappella choir, then an opera based on the comedy, and finally the present suite for baritone and orchestra drawing on parts of the opera.

Orchestral Reputation

The Stavanger Symphony Orchestra has enjoyed international prestige for many decades now. Its two focal points in early and contemporary music, the grand repertoire of Norwegian compositions of the twentieth century, and the high artistic quality of the orchestra make the musicians from Stavanger an indispensable part of the European concert calendar. The appointment of Steven Sloane as the orchestra's principal conductor, the clear strengthening of its performance forces, and the building of a new concert hall have lent it additional impetus and have set clear cultural-political accents.

Frank Martin played by the Musikkollegium Winterthur, under the direction of Jac van Steen:

Concerto for 7 wind instruments, tymbal, drums and string orchestra
Concerto for violin and orchestra
Danse de la peur for two pianos and small orchestra

MDG 601 1280-2 (CD)
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Die Weise von Liebe und Tod des Cornets Christoph Rilke
(with Christianne Stotijn, alto)
MDG 601 1444-2 (CD)
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Polyptyque, Passacaille, Concert pour Clavecin
MDG 601 1539-2 (CD)
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