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SCENE
DG



08/17-(5)

Luigi Boccherini (1743-1805)
Quintetto C major
Trio Secondo G major
Quintetto Secondo F major
Quintetto Quinto E flat major
Serenade D major

SCALA köln

1 CD

MDG 603 0438-2

UPC-Code:



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Case Study

Luigi Boccherini's contemporaries ranked him with Joseph Haydn, but during later times the high esteem enjoyed by his music faded – when everything of Italian origin that was not an opera was generally dismissed. The young musicians of Scala köln believe that it is high time to reopen Boccherini's case and are now presenting the results of their new investigation: a delightful program demonstrating that Boccherini's treasure trove holds more in store than just his famous Minuet.

Cello Special

The special role assigned by Boccherini to the cello immediately and repeatedly stands out. A sought-after cellist in his own right, Boccherini was not shy about technical challenges and extreme registers. And then there was a certain Prince Frederick William of Prussia, who likewise played the cello and dedicated himself to a constant quest for quality chamber music. He always found what he wanted in Boccherini – which brought the composer the title (and the pension) of a chamber composer.

Harmonically Intricate

Boccherini's personal approach to harmony met with special renown around 1800. The third movement of the Quintet in C major is a vivid audio example of this process: the simplest theme imaginable, namely a scale in C major, first in ascent, then in descent, is varied twelve times and repeatedly harmonized anew! Associations with the passacaglia and the ground suggest themselves, but Boccherini's constantly changing instrumentation means that things are not as simple as they may seem.

Historically Informed

The musicians of Scala köln, led by the violinist Christoph Mayer and the oboist Monika Nielen, bring this music to the stage in fresh new interpretations that are historically informed and feature period instruments. The mixed instrumentation with winds and strings comes with a guarantee of richly varied listening pleasure – boredom is absolutely out of the question!