



03/08-(4)

Title:
Hommage à August Stramm

Musicians:
Steffen Schleiermacher, piano
Hildegard Wiedemann, mezzo soprano
Holger Falk, baritone
Ralf Mielke, bass flute
Dorothea Hemken, viola
Wolfgang Heisig, phonola

1 CD

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Augustgram Strammophone

Steffen Schleiermacher is one of today's most important interpreters of new music. For two decades now this freelance composer and internationally acclaimed pianist has repeatedly surprised the music world with his most highly interesting recording projects. On his "Homage to August Stramm" he presents a rich and varied selection of settings by texts of this German poet who died during World War I.

Expressionist Vanguard

Born in 1874, Stramm was an inspector in the German imperial postal department and a reserve captain who won fame as the inventor of modern poetry. His fragmentary word forms, verbal experiments, and typographical innovations made him the spokesman of German expressionism almost overnight and an enduring treasure trove for the musical avant-garde including Gerhard Rühm, Klarenz Barlow, Milton Babbitt, Wolfgang Heisig, and Wolfgang Rihm.

Early Tradition

The first setting of Stramm poems dates to 1922. It was in this year that Wladimir Vogel wrote the *Three Sprechlieder* for low male voice and piano. Seven years before Herwarth Walden had composed the *Herresmarsch für August Stramm* on the occasion of the poet's death. For this recording Steffen Schleiermacher arranged the original composition for phonola, an automatic player piano to whose paper rolls Wolfgang Heisig also entrusted his piece.

Audioventure Universe

Steffen Schleiermacher set August Stramm's *Die Menschheit* for voice and prepared piano for performance at the Hanover Expo. Here hardly anything remains of the sound of the venerable concert grand piano, given the fact that Schleiermacher prepares his piano with rubber, pieces of metal, and wood. On this CD the musicians thus invite us to join with them on an unconventional audio adventure of discovery to a largely unknown sound cosmos inhabited by soprano, baritone, bass flute, viola, phonola, piano, and sampler.

„Hommage à Walter Spies“

Works by Skrjabin, von der Wense, Krenek, Schulhoff, Erdmann, McPhee, Walter und Leo Spies, Hindemith & Tansmann
Steffen Schleiermacher, piano
MDG 613 1171-2



„Hommage à Igor Strawinsky“

Works by Strawinsky, Berio, Boulez, Carter, Denissow & Schnittke
Steffen Schleiermacher, piano
MDG 613 1333-2