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01/10-(5)

Antonín Dvořák (1841-1904)
Symphony No. 6 op.60
Overtures: In der Natur op. 91,
Carneval op. 92, Othello op. 93

Dortmunder Philharmoniker
Jac van Steen, cond.

1 CD

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Dazzling Debut

An orchestra looking back on a tradition of 120 years releases its first CD for the world – now that is a special event! Can it be that the new concert hall into which the orchestra moved only a few years ago inspired this recording debut? In any case, the Dortmund Philharmonic and its new general music director Jac van Steen shine in a fabulous rendering of Antonín Dvořák's sixth symphony together with his three only rather rarely performed Concert Overtures opp. 91-93 offering more than eighty minutes of absolute musical ecstasy.

Symphonic Spice

After the successful performance of Dvořák's third *Slavonic Rhapsody* in Vienna, the Bohemian was supposed to deliver a symphony for the following concert season and with it a work that would satisfy the taste of the Viennese public so used to the compositions of Beethoven and Brahms. Dvořák filled this order by spicing his sixth symphony with parallels to Brahms's second symphony and allusions to Beethoven's symphonic music while also lending it a musical individuality all of its own. None of this, however, secured the symphony its premiere in Vienna at the end of 1880. The beginnings of the Bohemian nationality conflict meant that it did not seem opportune to perform the works of a Czech composer in two succeeding seasons!

Tuneful Trilogy

Ten years later Dvořák gave free rein to his love for poetry in music. In his *Nature, Life, and Love* concert

overture trilogy he impressively depicted the various sides of human existence. Now he has the bassoon and flute imitate the call of the cuckoo and the merry twittering of birds; then the carnival is heard as one of life's happiest moments of all; and finally he builds on Shakespeare's *Othello* in order to lend musical expression to love's tragic potential.

Romantic Repertoire

We already know Jac van Steen as an interpreter of the contemporary repertoire. On this magnificent CD he not only offers an impressive demonstration of the outstanding qualities of his Dortmund Philharmonic but also of his masterful shaping of the distinctive sound dimension of the romantic repertoire.

Frank Martin

Die Weise von Liebe und Tod
des Cornets Christoph Rilke
Christianne Stotijn, alto
Musikkollegium Winterthur
Jac van Steen, cond.
MDG 601 1444-2 (CD)
MDG 901 1444-6 (Hybrid-SACD)

Frank Martin

Orchestral Works
Musikkollegium Winterthur
Jac van Steen, cond.
MDG 601 1539-2 (CD)
MDG 901 1539-6 (Hybrid-SACD)

