



02/17-(5)

Musica Baltica Vol. 2

Friedrich Wilhelm Markull
(1816-1887)

Organ Works Vol. 1

Andrzej Szadejko,
Bucholz Organ (1841) St. Nikolai
Stralsund

1 Hybrid-SACD

MDG 906 1990-6

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RECORDING

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Founding Father

When Friedrich Wilhelm Markull died at the age of seventy-one in 1887, posthumous tributes honored him as a "most highly knowledgeable musician and a most highly outstanding organist and composer for the church, school, and salon and of classical orchestral works." For more than fifty years Markull had played a significant role in Danzig's music culture. It was in a very dismal state when he began his activity there, but he built it up *ex nihilo* and brought it to a great flourishing. Andrzej Szadejko has chosen a first attractive selection from Markull's countless organ compositions and recorded these works on the historic Bucholz organ at the Church of St. Nicholas in Stralsund – a welcome continuation of our very promisingly inaugurated Musica Baltica series.

Heart's Desire

Markull made his musical debut as a child prodigy and was appointed to the post of principal organist at St. Mary's Church in Danzig (today's Gdańsk in Poland). Its organ with three manuals and over fifty stops offered everything that the Northern German romantic musical heart desired. In 1945 St. Mary's Church was destroyed along with Danzig's entire city center. Fortunately, however, the sound typical of early romanticism has been preserved for today's listeners in the lavishly restored Stralsund organ.

Romantic Design

The many small-format compositions accounting for a large part of Markull's oeuvre in particular profit from these circumstances. Many of them must have found use during religious services, and among them we find chorale preludes and settings, postludes, and trios. The interpretive markings ranging from "Slow without dragging" through "Lively with a very flowing recital" to "Fiery and animated" are typically romantic and make for a delightfully varied listening experience.

Fantastic Finish

The Fantasy op. 23 is the only larger work included in Andrzej Szadejko's intelligently formed program. Here Markull pursues his very own formal and harmonic paths, so that the chorale "Christus ist mein Leben" forming its basis first clearly appears in the triumphant finale. This jubilant conclusion is a magnificent listening experience especially on this three-dimensional, finely balanced Super Audio CD produced in the splendid acoustic space of the Church of St. Nicholas!

Musica Baltica Vol. 1

Baroque Cantatas from Gdańsk
(Works by Meder, du Grain, Freislich and Pucklitz)
Soloists ; Goldberg Vocal Ensemble;
Goldberg Baroque Ensemble
Andrzej Szadejko, dir.

MDG 902 1989-6 (Hybrid-SACD)