Johann Sebastian Bach's St Matthew Passion is widely recognised as one of the greatest masterpieces in Western sacred music. With its double orchestra and chorus this is a work of enormous proportions in every sense, and Bach was extremely resourceful in treading a fine line between creating the almost operatic spectacle valued by the secular authorities in Leipzig, and the elevated religious atmosphere sought by the clergy. This inspired mix of moving drama and theological discourse led Leonard Bernstein to declare that 'there is nothing like it in all of music'.

KULTURFONDS PETER E. ECKES Johann Sebastian **BACH** (1685-1750)

St Matthew Passion, BWV 244

Evangelist Georg Poplutz, Tenor Jesus Matthias Winckhler, Bass

Julia Kleiter, Jasmin Maria Hörner, Soprano Gerhild Romberger, Nohad Becker, Alto Daniel Sans, Christian Rathgeber, Tenor Christian Wagner, Daniel Ochoa, Bass

Bachchor Mainz • Bachorchester Mainz Ralf Otto

CD₁ 71:16 CD 2 50:13 CD₃ 49:06 1-18 Part Two (contd.) 1-29 Part One 1-23 Part Two

A full cast and track listing can be found on pages 2 to 5 of the booklet The German sung texts and English translations can be found inside the booklet, and may also be accessed at www.naxos.com/libretti/574036.htm

Recorded: 26 March to 4 April 2018 at the Christuskirche, Mainz, Germany Producer and editor: Peter Laenger • Engineer: Stephan Schellmann • Booklet notes: Norbert Bolin This production was made possible thanks to the generous support of the Peter E. Eckes cultural foundation. Cover design by Wolfgang During

8.574036-38 DDD **Playing Time** 2:50:35

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St Matthew

Passion

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