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Debut

Cantate Domino

Cantatas and motets
J. S. Bach, W. A. Mozart
Telemann, Buxtehude,
Händel

Ensemble BachWerkVokal
Gordon Safari

MDG 902 2138-6

222[®]
RECORDING



LC06768

Cantate - Sing

“Sing a new song unto the Lord!” What motto could be more fitting for this debut by the BachWerkVokal? Framed by Bach’s festive New Year’s Day Cantata and his double-choral motet on Psalm 98, this recording by the instrumentally and vocally multifaceted Salzburg ensemble presents works by Buxtehude, Telemann, and Handel – and as a special treat two previously undiscovered solutions to Mozart’s Puzzle Canon on the same text.

Dominum – a New Song

Along with this premiere, two other recording firsts enrich this meticulously produced Super Audio CD. Telemann’s cantata has never been released in recorded form – which is not at all understandable in view of his interpretation rendering the text with absolutely onomatopoeic Baroque splendor. Now the ocean surges, now the streams of water jubilate, and the harps, trumpets, and drums mentioned in the psalm also make themselves heard.

Canticum - unto

Gordon Safari, the ensemble’s founder and leader, has completed the Cantata BWV 190, a work transmitted in fragmentary form. This versatile conductor is now presenting this festive work for the first time on Super Audio CD – so that it is truly a “new song”! Handel designed his English version of Psalm 98 just as festively, though with clearly more modest means. What this well-versed stage composer does with the few instruments that the patron who commissioned the work could accommodate once again demonstrates the masterful instrumental artistry of this German resident of England.

Novum! – the Lord!

As we gather from Buxtehude’s Latin psalm setting, both Handel and Bach learned from him. This virtuosic piece for three voices seems to have been tailor-made for the throats of the BachWerkVokal. The remarkable room impression of this three-dimensional recording shines with Baroque splendor even in the secular setting of the home – and lends Bach’s double-choral motets the radiance of a live performance.