



GRAND PIANO MASTERS ~ MOZART PIANO CONCERTOS NOS. 17 & 23

Die **Wiener Klavierkonzerte** aus der Zeit 1782-86 gelten in Fachkreisen als die bedeutendsten Instrumentalwerke des kompositorischen Schaffens von Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. Reich an thematischem Einfallsreichtum, Originalität und gleichberechtigter Interaktion zwischen Solist und Orchester schuf Mozart eine neue musikalische Form. Eine ausserordentliche Leistung, zumal Mozart in diesem Lebensabschnitt - vielleicht als Antwort auf seine zuvor fehlgeschlagenen Opernpläne - als einer der gefragtesten Pianisten Wiens ausgiebig konzertierte und unterrichtete.

Im Entstehungsjahr des G-Dur-Konzerts 1784 z.B. sind neben stattlichen Schülerlisten mindestens 23 Konzerte in einem Zeitraum von 46 Tagen sowie 6 Klavierkonzert-Kompositionen dokumentiert. So sind die vorliegenden Werke denn auch getragen von Lebensfreude ob dieses äusseren Erfolges - tiefgründig und doch lebensbejahend, manchmal melancholisch, ja sogar tragisch, jedoch keineswegs resignant.

Es sind eben genau jene Auseinandersetzungen mit der geistigen Dichte und seelischen Dimension des Mozart'schen Werkes, die **Christoph Soldans** Interpretationen einzigartig machen. Soldan studierte bei Prof. Eliza Hansen sowie Christoph Eschenbach an der Hamburger Musikhochschule und erlangte seinen internationalen Durchbruch durch eine Tournee mit Leonard Bernstein im Sommer 1989. Seitdem konzertiert er innerhalb Deutschlands, in den USA, in Mexico und Japan als Solist und mit namhaften Orchestern. Neben technischer Perfektion ist es die Konzentration auf interpretatorischen Tiefsinn und atmosphärische Transparenz, die Soldans Konzerte ausmachen.

Christoph Soldan verbindet eine langjährige Zusammenarbeit mit dem polnischen Dirigenten **Pawel Przytocki**, der u.a. mit dem Budapest Concert Orchestra, dem Orchestra Sinfonica de Xalapa in Mexico sowie dem Real Philharmonia de Galicia in Spanien konzertierte und seit 1999 ständiger Gastdirigent des Radiosinfonieorchesters Krakau ist.

Die für ihren transparenten Streicherklang in Anlehnung an die alte Aufführungspraxis berühmte **Capella Istropolitana**, die für dieses Konzert geradezu prädestiniert ist, gilt als eines der renommiertesten Ensembles alter Musik und kann seit seiner Gründung 1983 auf über 70 CD-Produktionen, wovon zwei mit Platin ausgezeichnet wurden, zurückblicken.

The Vienna piano concertos between 1782 and 1786 are seen as the most eminent instrumental compositions of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's life work. He created a new musical form through the use of comprehensive musical ideas in reference of the themes, the originality and the equality of the interaction between soloist and orchestra. That is an extraordinary achievement of Mozart particularly in this part of his life - maybe as a result of his failed opera plans before - in view of the many concerts he played as one of the most asked pianists of Vienna and the multitude of students he taught during this period. It is documented, for example, that Mozart performed in the genesis year of the g major concerto (1784) at least 23 concerts during a period of 46 days. He also composed 6 piano-concertos and taught a stately quantity of students during the same year... Therefore these two works are carried by love of life cause of this outer success - profound but life-affirmatively, sometimes melancholic, yes even tragic, however by no means resigning.

Exactly these disputes with the intellectual density and psychological dimension of Mozart's works make **Christoph Soldan's** interpretations uniquely. Soldan studied with Prof. Eliza Hansen as well as Christoph Eschenbach at the Hamburg music university and attained his international success through a concert tour with Leonard Bernstein in the summer 1989. Since then he performs concerts as soloist of various renowned orchestras in Europe, the USA, Mexico and Japan. In addition to technical perfection, it is his concentration on the depth of the interpretation and the atmospheric transparency, which makes Soldan's concerts very valuable.

Christoph Soldan combines a long-standing cooperation with the Polish conductor **Pawel Przytocki**. Przytocki works since 1999 as a constant guest conductor of the radio symphony orchestra Krakau and performed with the Budapest Concert Orchestra, the Orchestra Sinfonica de Xalapa in Mexico, the Real Philharmonia de Galicia in Spain and the Cappella Istropolitana. The **Capella Istropolitana** with his transparent string sound in accordance with the historical performance practice is virtually predestined for these concerti. This orchestra is seen as one of the most prestigious ensembles for historical music and look back to more than 70 cd-productions - two these releases were honored with platinum.

Publishing culture in its authentic form entails for us capturing and recording for posterity outstanding performances and concerts. The performers, audience, opus and room enter into an intimate dialogue that in its form and expression, its atmosphere, is unique and unrepeatable. It is our aim, the philosophy of our house, to enable the listener to acutely experience every facet of this symbiosis, the intensity of the performance. The results are unparalleled interpretations of musical and literary works, simply - audiophile snapshots of permanent value, recorded in direct **2-Track Stereo digital**. Thus we become a part of the performance itself, capturing, in sound and pictures, the impressions, the suspense that we enjoy during a concert - so that we may impart to you as authentic an experience as possible.

The concerts in the **UNESCO World Heritage Maulbronn Monastery**, which we document with this edition, supply the ideal conditions for our aspirations. It is, above all, the atmosphere of the romantic, candle-lit arches, the magic of the monastery in its unadulterated sublime presence and tranquility that impresses itself upon the performers and audience of these concerts. Renowned soloists and ensembles from the international arena repeatedly welcome the opportunity to appear here - enjoying the unparalleled acoustic and architectural beauty of this World Heritage Site (monastery church, cloister gardens, lay refectory, etc.), providing exquisite performances of secular and sacred music. **Flourishing culture in living monuments, entralling the audience and last but not least also you the listener are the values we endeavor to document in this series.**

Andreas Otto Grimminger & Josef-Stefan Kindler

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