



musicaPhon

Ludwig van Beethoven

Complete Cello Works (Sonatas, Variations)

Martin Rummel, Cello
Gerda Guttenberg, Piano

M 56870 (2 SACD Hybrid)

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It is my deep conviction that these pieces cannot be put together within a short time, which has unfortunately become more and more common in today's concert life. A cellist has a recital with a pianist, they meet – best case scenario – a few days before the concert for rehearsals, and then go to play. These Beethoven pieces are, however, duo works in the best sense of the word; there must be a profound unity between cellist and pianist. This unity goes much further than the imagination of the sound and goes into questions of playing technique that are hardly raised in romantic pieces. I am lucky enough to concertize with most outstanding pianists, but rarely dare to play Beethoven with such “fleeting acquaintances”. Unfortunately I hardly ever hear CD recordings or concerts that convince me of the opposite.

Playing these works only one thing counts: the original source, Beethoven's manuscript. Thanks to Jonathan Del Mar and his fantastic new Urtext Edition at Bärenreiter publishers, we find many open questions solved, going as far as „new“ notes. This makes this first release following the new edition so extremely important. (Martin Rummel)

After first cello lessons with Wilfried Tachezi and a soloist's diploma from what is now the Anton Bruckner Privatuniversität Linz (being the youngest ever graduate at the time), Martin Rummel studied with Maria Kliegel in Cologne and, mainly, with William Pleeth in London, whose last pupil he was to become. Until today, Mr Rummel premiered more than 20 works, amongst which five cello concertos, and played countless national first performances. Amongst the composers who he was or is in contact with, are besides Alfred Schnittke e.g. Jörn Arnecke, Howard Blake, Sofia Gubaidulina, Rudolf Kelterborn, John McCabe, Matthias Pintscher and Graham Whettam.

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