

**Philipp Wolfrum**  
(1854–1919)

Ein  
**Weihnachtsmysterium**

nach Worten der Bibel und Spielen des Volkes op. 31

"A Christmas Mystery" (1898): Late Romantic symphonic oratorio  
influenced by Wagner, Liszt and Humperdinck

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| <p>CD1 [62:11]<br/>ERSTER TEIL</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 Vorspiel 11:49</li> <li>2 Die Ankündigung des Engels 8:30</li> <li>3 Marias Lobgesang 7:37</li> <li>4 Zwischenspiel 4:06</li> <li>5 Die Geburt Jesu 13:39</li> <li>6 Die Verkündigung des Engels an die Hirten 16:25</li> </ol> | <p>CD2 [38:41]<br/>ZWEITER TEIL</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 Einleitung 6:43</li> <li>2 Maria an der Krippe 9:41</li> <li>3 Die Hirten bei der Krippe 7:43</li> <li>4 Die drei Könige aus dem Morgenlande 7:27</li> <li>5 Schluss-Szene 7:04</li> </ol> |
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**Joo-Anne Bitter** *soprano* · **Anne Scholdt** *alto*  
**Paweł Brożek** *tenor* · **Martin Berner, Hans Christian Hinz** *baritone*

Hamelner Kantorei an der Marktkirche  
Jugendkantorei Hameln  
Philipp-Wolfrum-Ensemble  
Nordwestdeutsche Philharmonie

**Stefan Vanselow**

recorded live by NDR Kultur as world premiere recording  
on 30 November and 1 December 2019 at Marktkirche St. Nicolai, Hameln

CHR 77458



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www.christophorus-records.de

Total Time:  
1h 40min

Essay:  
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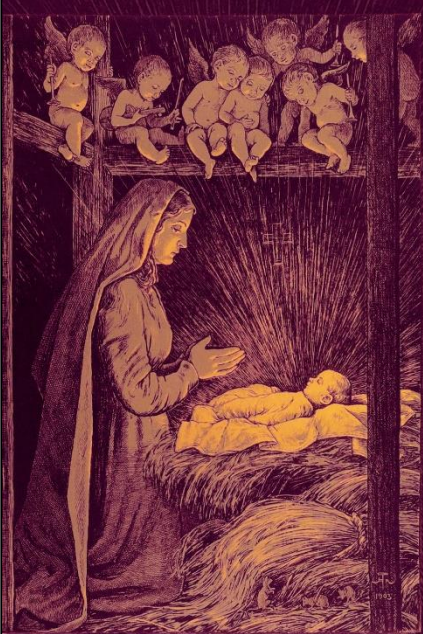


**Philipp Wolfrum**



Ein  
**Weihnachtsmysterium**  
(1898)


Hamelner Kantorei  
Nordwestdeutsche  
Philharmonie

Stefan Vanselow



CHRISTOPHORUS



4 010072 774583

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| <p><b>Philipp Wolfrum</b><br/><b>EIN WEIHNACHTSMYSTERIUM</b><br/><b>Late romantic symphonic oratorio</b><br/><b>influenced by Wagner, Liszt and Humperdinck</b></p> <p>Hamelner Kantorei<br/>Nordwestdeutsche Philharmonie<br/>Stefan Vanselow</p> | <b>CHR77458</b>          | <b>PC: 02G</b> |
|  | <p>2 CDs</p> <p>2019</p> |                |

Philipp Wolfrum (1854-1919) was one of the most influential personalities in German musical life around 1900. He worked as a choirmaster, organist, composer, professor and university music director in Heidelberg and friendships connected him with Engelbert Humperdinck, Max Reger and Richard Strauss; he also maintained close contact with the Bayreuth circle around Richard Wagner's widow Cosima. Liszt and Wagner were his great idols and this is also noticeable in his compositions.

His opus magnum is the "Weihnachtsmysterium" (Christmas Mystery), first performed in 1898, in which the birth of Jesus is pictorially staged. The conception for this more than one-and-a-half-hour work is influenced by medieval mystery plays and Wagner's Gesamtkunstwerk. The musical material consists of well-known German Christmas carols, which are processed in high chromatic harmony and late Romantic melody as well as with masterfully colourful orchestral treatment and are reminiscent of Wagner's operas or Liszt's symphonic poems, in places also of Brahms, Humperdinck or Reger.