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MDG
SCENE



06/18-(3)

Albert Lortzing (1801-1851)
Robert Schumann (1810-1856)
„Habet acht!“
Songs for Male Voices

Neue Detmolder Liedertafel
Detmolder Hornisten
Ludger Mias / Thorsten Roth, dir.

2 CDs at the price of 1

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Romantic Sense

This is male choral song at its finest: the Neue Detmolder Liedertafel enlivens a tradition – regarded with condescending smiles in some circles – with fresh spirit and a special sense of beauty. And what its fifteen members and vocal powerhouses can do when they give their best with the four Detmolder Hornisten is a genuine audio delight. The works for male choir by Robert Schumann and Albert Lortzing brought together on this double CD represent the height of Romantic song artistry – above all when they are so magnificently rendered.

Revolutionary Spirit

Singing in male circles was initially perhaps only a pretext enabling men to gather together in public without being suspected of engaging in conspiratorial activities. During the meetings of the Dresdner Liedertafel, which Schumann led for a time, an hour of musical performance was always followed by an hour of parliamentary debate. It is hard to believe that authorities of the pre-1848 era would have stood idly by if the actually rather unsuspecting pastime of singing had not been part of the deal.

Refined Settings

Political debate was also held in the music, in “Der Eidgenossen Nachtwache,” “Freiheitslied,” and “Schwarz-Rot-Gold” – poems by revolutionary poets from Freiligrath to Klopstock set by Schumann for his Liedertafel. The fact that musical quality did not fall by the wayside is shown in his “Ritornelle” to texts by Rückert, all of them canons of the greatest artistry. “In Meeres Mitten” is particularly refined: with each repetition the canon goes down one step.

Surprising Reminiscences

The Neue Detmolder Liedertafel has special ties to Albert Lortzing inasmuch as he was active at the local Lippe Court Theater for some time. During difficult later years his male choral works helped him to support himself and his family. Everything is represented in these works, from cheerfulness to contemplation, including surprising reminiscences of *Zar und Zimmermann* and *Der Wildschütz* and making Romantic choral song simply irresistible!