

Expressiveness, drama, Alpine joie de vivre: Haydn's predecessor Gregor Joseph Werner

Vol. I: Salve Reginas and Pastorellas



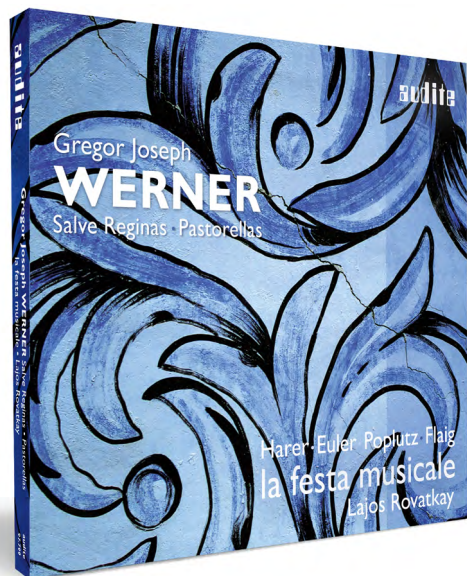

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Magdalene Harer soprano
Johannes Euler countertenor
Georg Poplutz tenor
Markus Flaig bass-baritone

la festa musicale
Lajos Rovatkay leader / conductor

Expressiveness, drama and Alpine joie de vivre: the hitherto neglected œuvre of Haydn's predecessor Gregor Joseph Werner reveals a wealth of contrasts. Connecting different epochs to each other, his compositions are musical jewels casting a new light on the works of the Viennese classical era.



Following on from their highly successful debut album featuring works by Venturini (aud. 97.775), *la festa musicale* now make a welcome return to audite, once again performing little-known and yet high-quality repertoire:

Gregor Joseph Werner (1693-1766), a titan at the birth of Viennese classicism, was Joseph Haydn's immediate predecessor as *Kapellmeister* at the Esterházy court. First and foremost a pre-eminent composer of Latin sacred music, the majority of his instrumental music has been lost. Werner's compositions, including the *Salve Regina* settings and *Pastorellas* presented here, reveal beguiling and inventive melodic lines and a bold sense of harmonic expression alongside enormous contrapuntal prowess. Haydn profited considerably from his predecessor and teacher: the late Mozartian synthesis of the "learned" and the "galant" styles was clearly already inherent in Werner's music. Werner's oeuvre, difficult to access and almost only

available in individual parts, has been researched for decades by Lajos Rovatkay, who is also the conductor in these performances. Together with a stellar cast of soloists and *la festa musicale*, he now presents impressive interpretations of the works of this unjustly neglected master.

The Requiem, composed in 1763, will be published as Vol. II in mid-2022.

Marketing / Promotion

- start of the G. J. Werner CD series
- continuation of the co-operation with *la festa musicale*
- HD downloads in stereo and 5.1 surround sound
- digital booklet available for download
- EPK video on YouTube
- social media promotion
- free track on audite.de

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Francesco Venturini

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