Edition Fischer-Dieskau (I) – H. Wolf: Mörike-Lieder

aud 95.599

EAN: 4022143955999

4 0 2 2 1 4 3 9 5 5 9 9 9

Gramophone (Richard Wigmore - 2008.10.01)

GRAMOPHONE

Passion and Euphoria

Hugo Wolf's Mörike Lieder were written in a fevered bout of composition following a long creative drought. Richard Wigmore seeks the singers who can reflect Wolf's 'exquisite torment'

By 1949 word was spreading of a new baritone sensation from Berlin, heir-apparent to Janssen and Hüsch. The radio recording of “Lebewohl” Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau made that year shows a voice of velvet, rounded beauty, and the singer's characteristic way of maintaining intensity to the very ends of phrases. In 1951 and 1955 he recorded 17 more Mörike songs for radio with the sympathetic Hertha Klust. His mastery of colouring and nuance is already in evidence, along with an almost neuropathic sensibility. “Der Genesene an die Hoffnung”, the convalescent's song that Wolf placed symbolically at the head of the collection, is mesmerising. Other songs seem excessively drawn out, above all the nostalgic “Im Frühling”, sung as if in a trance, in defiance of Wolfs marking gemächlich – comfortably. Elsewhere his restless urge to dramatise can lead to overkill – in the knowingly underlined Sturm (storm) in “Begegnung”, or the close of “Selbstgeständnis”, where the spoilt only child's final confession (“The odd thrashing would have done me a power of good”) sounds aggressively hectoring rather than ironically humorous.

»audite« Ludger Böckenhoff • Tel.: +49 (0)5231-870320 • Fax: +49 (0)5231-870321 • info@audite.de • www.audite.de