

Reinhard Keiser - Passion Music (2010)



1. *Passion Music* 1:06:38 Setlist: *Ich liege und schlafe ganz mit Frieden* (Motette) -*Ich Liege Und Schlafe Ganz Mit Frieden* (Chorus) -*Meine Seele Ruht in Gottes Hand* (Soprano) -*O Sel'ge Ruh* (Chorus) -*Wenn Gott Mir Hilft Und Mich Erhalt, Was Kann Mir Schaden* (Tenor) -*Wenn Gott Mir Hilft Und Mich Erhalt, Kann Ich Wohl Bleiben* (Soprano) -*Ich Bin Sicher Bei Den Blitzen* (Bass) -*Ich Den Schönen Himmels-Auen* (Alto) -*Ich Liege Und Schlafe Ganz Mit Frieden* (Chorus) *Wir gingen alle in der Irre* (Fragmenten aus der Lukas-Passion) -*Wir Gingen Alle in Die Irre* (Chorus) -*Recitativo: Und Er Ging Hinaus* (Tenor, Bass) -*Aria: Weint, Besturzte Augen* (Soprano) -*Recitativo: Und Er Stund Auf Von Dem Gebet* (Tenor, Bass) -*Aria: Schmeichle Nur, Boshafte Schlange* (Soprano) -*Recitativo: Da Aber Sahen, Die Um Ihn Waren* (Tenor) -*Herr, Sollen Wir Mit Dem Schwert Dareinschlagen?* (Chorus) -*Recitativo: Und Einer Aus Ihnen Schlug Des Hohenpriesters Knecht* (Tenor, Bass, Soprano) -*Aria: Verstummet, Unglucksel'ge Lippen* (Alto) -*Recitativo: Und Über Eine Kleine Weile* (Tenor, Soprano, Alto) -*Arioso: Ach, Was Hab Ich Doch Begangen* (Tenor) -*Accompagnato: Ergreif Nun Dolch Und Strick* (Tenor) -*Aria Lamentosa: Rinnet, Ihr Betranten Augen* (Tenor) -*Recitativo: Die Manner Aber, Die Jesum Hielten* (Tenor) -*Weissage, Wer Ist's, Der Dich Schlug?* (Chorus) -*Recitativo: Und Viel Andere Lasterungen* (Tenor) -*Aria Furiosa: Zeuget, Ihr Wolken, Ergrimmete Blitze* (Bass) -*Recitativo: Und Als Es Tag Ward* (Tenor) -*Bistu Christus, Sage Es Uns!* (Chorus) -*Recitativo: Er Sprach Aber Zu Ihnen* (Tenor, Bass) -*Bistu Denn Gottes Sohn?* (Chorus) *Seelige Erlösungs-Gedancken* (Oratorium) -*Aria: Ach, Golgatha!* (Soprano, Tenor, Bass) -*Recitativo: Bejammert Meinen Jammer-Stand* (Soprano) -*Accompagnato: Ihr Henker, Ach, Mit Welcher Tyrannei* (Soprano) -*Aria: Kann Nicht Mein Bitterer Tranen-Regen* (Soprano) -*Recitativo: O Herber Anblick* (Tenor) -*Aria: Schenkt Man Dir Gall' Und Essig Ein* (Tenor) -*Recitativo: Unseliger Gefahrte Meiner Pein* (Bass) -*Accompagnato: Herr, Schliesse Mich in Dein Gedachtnus Ein* (Bass) -*Arioso: Wahrlich, Ich Sage Dir* (Bass) -*Aria: Ich Bin Zum Himmel Eingeladen* (Bass) -*Aria: Weinete, Ihr Getreue Herzen* (Soprano) -*Recitativo: Schaut Den Entblossten Leib* (Bass) -*Aria: Aus Liebe Bin Ich Mensch Geworden* (Bass) Doerthe Maria Sandmann - soprano Eeva Tenkanen - soprano Julian Podger - tenor Knut Schoch - tenor Matthias Jahrmärker - bass Olivia Vermeulen - mezzo-soprano Raimonds Spogis - bass Capella Orlansi Bremen Director - Thomas Ihlenfeldt

Only three oratorio works by Reinhard Keiser, who is above all known as an opera composer, have been transmitted to us in full. Many shorter pieces, fragments, and works of uncertain authorship still lie unpublished in archives and libraries. The present recording brings together a psalm composition, the fragment of an anonymously transmitted St. Luke Passion, and a printed edition from 1715. The nine instrumentalists and seven vocalists of the Capella Orlandi Bremen under Thomas Ihlenfeldt present these pieces by Keiser, in which, as might be expected, reminiscences of his opera style are in clear audible evidence. In his St. Luke Passion Keiser sets entirely new accents. Allegorical figures are included in the cast of characters and comment empathetically on the action, and the expressive, palpable manner of their interventions in the passion account is innovative. The liturgical components, for instance, the turba choruses, also show the music dramatist's hand. This Hamburg concert, broadcast live on Deutschlandradio Kultur, continues the concert and CD series »Wiederentdeckungen Hamburger Kirchenmusik 1600-1800« (Rediscoveries of Hamburg Church Music, 1600-1800) of the ZEIT Foundation. ---jpc.de

The great oratorios and Passion settings of the High Baroque are effective in part because they successfully combine various forms of musical discourse; they draw on opera, on chorales and other forms of devotional music, on pastoral themes (where would Messiah be without those?), on political and military ideas, and more. In order for Bach and Handel to accomplish what they did, someone had to carve out a space in the sacred music sphere for them. Hamburg composer Reinhard Keiser, best known (when he is known at all) for his operas, was one of these figures, and this release from the specialist German label CPO, which has embarked on an intriguing project covering two centuries of church music from the Hanseatic city, does a top-notch job of illuminating the ways he did it and the circumstances under which he did it. The booklet notes (in English and German) by conductor Thomas Ihlenfeldt concisely and entertainingly explain the factors in play: arrayed against the musically conservative clergy of the city's large churches were smaller churches and also its cathedral, which was partly under foreign (for a time Swedish) control. And Hamburg was full of talented opera singers eager for work during periods (such as Lent) when theaters were closed. The three works here, collectively designated as Passion music but including a motet, a partial Passion setting, and a series of arias entitled *Seelige Erlösungs-Gedancken* (Thoughts on the Soul's Redemption), all anticipate the forms and modes of expression used by Bach, and especially Handel. All are made up of recitatives and arias, with the first two framed by very brief choruses and choral exclamations from the crowd, like those in Bach's or Schütz's settings, in *Wir gingen alle in der Irre*, setting material from the Passion According to Luke. The recitatives in this work are noteworthy in their depth and variety, but perhaps the most interesting are the *Seelige Erlösungs-Gedancken*, which have a reflective and inward tone suggesting that Keiser knew the slightly older and often magnificent chamber sacred music of Buxtehude. The performers, with an unusual variety of international backgrounds, turn in generally strong efforts; the quiet warmth of mezzo-soprano Olivia Vermeulen is especially in tune with the expressive

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Written by bluesever

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dimensions of the music. Tenor Knut Schoch will be familiar to buyers of parts or the entire Bach cycle on the budget Brilliant label. The choruses are sung with one voice per part, simply by the assembled soloists, and indeed music like this, where the chorus doesn't really have much to do, provides a decent argument for the one-voice-per-part procedure (it's much more troublesome in chorale-based music like Bach's). A very strong outing from CPO's adventurous catalog, and it makes one want to check out other releases in the Hamburg series. ---James Manheim, AllMusic Review

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