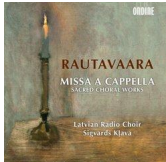


Einojuhani Rautavaara - Missa A Capella, Sacred Choral Works (2013)

Written by bluesever

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01. Missa A Capella - I. Kyrie 02. Missa A Capella - II. Gloria 03. Missa A Capella - III. Credo 04. Missa A Capella - IV. Sanctus 05. Missa A Capella - V. Benedictus 06. Missa A Capella - VI. Agnus Dei 07. Psalm of Invocation 08. Evening Hymn 09. Missa Duodecanonica - I. Kyrie 10. Missa Duodecanonica - II. Sanctus 11. Missa Duodecanonica - III. Agnus Dei 12. Ave Maria, Gratia Plena 13. Canticum Mariae Virginis 14. Our Joyful'st Feast 15. Die Erste Elegie Latvian Radio Choir Sigvards Klava – conductor

Contemporary Finnish composer Einojuhani Rautavaara has made vital contributions to choral music, and the Latvian Radio Choir under Sigvards Klava serves his work admirably. In the harmonically rich title piece, he begins with a fascinating and unusually animated Kyrie, with voices pulsating to make a beat. Gentle lyrical melodies give way to a sudden climactic, dissonant tangle of voices out of which sopranos rise ethereally. Clarion lines for sopranos and tenors give due weight to the Gloria. In the Credo and Sanctus, the composer intriguingly juxtaposes towering unison passages with spare solos. The more loosely constructed twelve-tone Missa duodecanonica provides a surprising contrast to the first, neo-Romantic mass. Also worth hearing is "Die erste Elegie," set to words by Rainer Maria Rilke, in which Rautavaara employs evocative text painting, with the choir reaching a glorious summit as they sing of music as the most potent palliative to suffering. Under Klava's hand, their blend is superb, with plenty of inner voice sound, and final cut-offs are so smooth they sound ironed. ---Ronni Reich, nj.com

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