



Arthur Honegger

1892 - 1955

Mélodies et Chansons

Holger Falk, baritone
Steffen Schleiermacher, piano

MDG 613 2203-2



singular

As a Swiss composer, Arthur Honegger was probably the bird of paradise among the Paris composers of the "Groupe des Six". The fact that he managed to combine the simplicity and plainness demanded above all by Jean Cocteau with his fascination for Wagner and Debussy indicates a strong personality. It is also reflected in his numerous song compositions and can be experienced wonderfully in the selection that Holger Falk and Steffen Schleiermacher have made for their latest album - including many a surprise.

double-edged

As with the other Five of the "Groupe des Six", Honegger preferred to set contemporary poems to music; Apollinaire and Claudel were particularly popular. But older texts also seem to fascinate him: The wonderfully purring stories by Saluste du Bartas and Pierre de Ronsard transport us into a baroque world in which biting irony and the most serious passion can hardly be distinguished.

fourfold

Honegger - unlike his colleagues - was also fond of the large symphonic form, including some stage successes. Some of this can be found in his songs; the early "Quatre Poèmes" surprise with harmonic opulence, far from any neo-classical attitude. Even at a ripe old age, the composer still counted these pieces among his best.

infinite

The works presented here by Falk and Schleiermacher with an unerring sense for fine nuances span

an entire composer's life. The consistently demanding piano part remains a constant and creates an atmosphere with sometimes almost endless, yet never obtrusive ostinati, on which Holger Falk's supple baritone can unfold most beautifully.

**Further recordings with
Holger Falk & Steffen Schleiermacher:**

Hanns Eisler (1898-1962) Lieder

Vol. 1 **MDG 613 2001-2**

Vol. 2 **MDG 613 2040-2**

Vol. 3 **MDG 613 2084-2**

Vol. 4 **MDG 603 2126-2**

Erik Satie (1866-1925)

Intégrale des Mélodies et Chansons

MDG 613 1926-2

Francis Poulenc (1899-1963)

Intégrale des mélodies sur des poèmes de Guillaume Apollinaire

Vol. 1 MDG 603 1658-2

Intégrale des mélodies sur des poèmes de Paul Éluard et Louise de Vilmorin

Vol. 2 MDG 603 1776-2

Mélodies sur des poèmes des poètes divers

Vol. 3 MDG 603 1822-2