

Anton Bruckner - Mass No.1 in D minor (2003)

Written by bluesever

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1. *Kyrie* 2. *Gloria* 3. *Credo* 4. *Sanctus* 5. *Benedictus* 6. *Agnus Dei* Isabelle Müller-Kant (soprano) Eibe Möhlmann (mezzo-soprano) Daniel Sans (tenor) Christof Fischesses (bass) Chamber Choir of Europe Württemburgische Philharmonic Reutlingen Nicol Matt – conductor Recorded 20-25 January 2003, Württemberg, Germany

Bruckner composed the Mass No.1 in D minor, for soloists, choir and orchestra in 1864, two years before his first mature symphony in C major. Bruckner was rarely satisfied with his compositions and was always looking for improvement. He obsessively strove for perfection and consequently made revisions to the work in 1876 and 1882. The D minor Mass has never been as popular as the two that were to follow although it is a marvellous work. Evident everywhere is Bruckner's contrapuntal skill revealing both a real uniqueness of harmonic thought and inventiveness and arguably his predisposition towards ambiguous tonalities. The D minor Mass has that intense seriousness of purpose that is so characteristic of the greatest Bruckner.

Brilliant Classics typically use previously released material, licensed from other labels, in their sets but appear to have produced this 2003 recording of the first Mass for themselves. The vocal and orchestral forces are in excellent form and seem particularly appropriate choices. Austrian Nicol Matt is in control of the proceedings conveying a powerful and expressive reading. The four soloists and the Chamber Choir of Europe, who were founded in 1998 as the Nordic Chamber Choir provide an inspiring blend of voices producing a fine quality of tone. The digital recorded sound is warm and clear. ---Michael Cookson, musicweb-international.com

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