



08/09-(6)

**Title:**  
**La Fête de Saint Hubert**  
Masses for Saint Hubert by  
Gustave Rochard,  
Tyndare, Albert Sombrun  
and Jules Cantin

**Artists:**  
Deutsche Naturhorn Solisten  
Johannes Michel, organ

1 CD

**Order No.:**  
MDG 605 1576-2

**UPC-Code:**



#### Off to the Hunt

It is in the autumn that hunters traditionally honor their patron saint, either in the open air or in fine church acoustics. Since the nineteenth century the custom has been to celebrate such masses completely without song – and at the most with the organ occasionally engaging in harmonic dialogue with the horns. The German Natural Horn Soloists, continuing this tradition, have recorded some of the most splendid masses by Gustave Rochard, Tyndare, Albert Sombrun, and Jules Cantin in honor of St. Hubert, in part for the first time on Parforce horns.

#### Essential Equipment

A gun, a hunting dog, and a horn form the hunter's essential equipment. The horn experienced its greatest flourishing as a court orchestral instrument during the later years of the seventeenth century. It was then that Marquis Marc Antoine de Dampierre was the principal hornist and director of the hunt at the court of Louis XIV. His proficiency on the horn was legendary, and his works today continue to stamp the image of this instrument.

#### Effective Expansion

St. Hubert's masses were composed mostly around 1900 and initially mostly in France. By this time the performance site had long been transferred to church settings, thus enabling organists operating in the French romantic tradition to expand the tonal spectrum of the horns with free improvisations. The earliest extant melodies are by Hubert Obry. The "Domine Deus," a piece running like a red thread through all four compositions on this recording, also probably goes back to him. In the "Les Cloches" (The Bells) natural horns

come amazingly close to reproducing the ringing of church bells.

#### Finest in the Field

The German Natural Horn Soloists are regarded as the absolute specialists in the field of valveless-horn performance. Their previous recordings display the most intimate familiarity with historical performance practice and are marked by boundless virtuosity. It is thus no surprise that they are welcome guests at festive hunting events of all kinds. Johannes Michel, the church music director at Christ Church in Mannheim, is their partner on the historic Steinmeyer organ of 1911.

"The result is a thrilling ride. The virtuoso players can also tail the sound away to a virtual whisper. [...] The sound is tremendous: a huge dynamic range and sense of space is rendered, with just a hint of the outdoors. Thoroughly recommended" (Early Music Review).

**Musique de Chasse / Hunting Music**  
MDG 605 1188-2



**Anton Reicha:** 24 Trios for 3 Horns op. 82  
MDG 605 0864-2



**G.F.Händel:** Concerti a due cori  
+ Franz Raml, organ  
MDG 605 0762-2

**G. Ph. Telemann:** Horn Concertos  
+ Düsseldorfer Hofmusik  
MDG 605 1045-2

