



05/14-(5)

Ludwig van Beethoven
(1770-1827)

Overture Leonore I
Ah! perfido! op. 65

Luigi Cherubini (1760-1842)

Symphony D major

“Vous voyez de vos fils” from “Médée”

Maria Bengtsson, soprano
Orchestre de chambre de Lausanne
Bertrand de Billy, conductor

1 Hybrid-SACD

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RECORDING

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Balmy Breezes

Fresh breezes are blowing from Lausanne! And a timpani blast is also heard: Bertrand de Billy has selected Luigi Cherubini's only symphony with his new orchestra in mind. This recently appointed guest conductor of the Orchestre de Chambre de Lausanne revealingly relates Cherubini to Ludwig van Beethoven, with Maria Bengtsson in top form as Medea.

Dramatic Development

Beethoven the symphonist and Cherubini the dramatist – this new recording challenges the characterizations contained in this simple opposition. Beethoven is represented with two dramatic works: a youthful stroke of genius entitled “Ah, perfido!” and the first overture to his only opera, *Leonore*, which later became a celebrated international success as *Fidelio*. These works do not at all suggest that Beethoven had to struggle with the dramatic form: just listen to Maria Bengtsson's furious entry in “Ah, perfido!”

Symphonic Surprise

Since Cherubini composed his symphony for London, we should not be surprised to find the late Haydn peering around the corner now and again. But Cherubini points beyond this great symphonic father figure; the bouncy minuet would have done Beethoven proud with its rhythmic intricacies and intrigues. It is thus also hardly surprising that

Beethoven held the Italian composer in very high esteem; after all, melodies evidently flowed with much greater ease from his virtuosic pen schooled on the opera.

Medea's Magic

Maria Callas successfully lent her support to Cherubini's *Medée*, and ever since it has been one of his greatest stage hits. His contemporaries thought that the work was too long. He thereupon blotted out five hundred measures that were first reconstructed in 2013, with help from the most advanced x-ray technology. “Vous voyez de vos fils” is one of the all-time great moments in the opera literature, and Maria Bengtsson gives us the opportunity to experience the whole emotional spectrum of the title heroine's suffering. And it is as if we are there with her: original MDG 2+2+2 surround sound guarantees an authentic and exciting opera experience!

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Berlin Symphonies

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Orchestre de Chambre de Lausanne

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