

NAXOS

Although Martinů is known for a number of significant choral works, including his oratorio *The Epic of Gilgamesh* [Naxos 8.555138], relatively little attention is given to his vocal music. Songs with piano, many of them still unpublished or only made available in print recently, make up a fair proportion of his output. This disc features a selection of songs written during the 1930s and early 1940s, a period in which Martinů moved away from French influences towards a musical language rooted in folklore from his native Bohemia and other areas of Central Europe. Several of the songs on this disc are world première recordings.



MARTINŮ

(1890-1959)

Songs

1-2	Deux chansons [Two Songs] (1932)	7:19
3	Trois mélodies [Three Songs] (1930)*	0:53
4	Vocalise-Etude (1930)*	1:10
5-6	Dvě balady [Two Ballads to Folk Texts] (1932)*	6:31
7-10	Čtyři písně [Four Songs to Folk Texts] (1940)	5:39
11	Polka for piano from the ballet <i>Špalíček</i> (1932)	2:13
12-19	Nový Špalíček [New Anthology] (1942)	10:56
20	Waltz for piano from the ballet <i>Špalíček</i> (1932)	6:05
21-22	Three Christmas Songs (1929)*	2:46
23-26	Four Children's Songs and Nursery Rhymes*	1:17
27	Koleda milostná [Love Carol to a Folk Text] (1937)	0:53
28	Přání mamince [A Wish for a Mother]*	1:16
29-30	Songs from the <i>Hry o Marii</i> [The Miracles of Mary] (1934)	6:42

*World première recordings

Olga Černá, Mezzo-soprano • Jitka Čechová, Piano

This recording was sponsored by the Bohuslav Martinů Foundation
The production was supported by the International Bohuslav Martinů Society

Recorded at Studio Minor, Trhový Štěpánov, Czech Republic,
from 11th to 12th & 15th to 16th January 2003

Producer: Tomáš Stavel • Engineers: Václav Vlk and Jaroslav Lejčko
Booklet notes: Richard Whitehouse • Sung texts translated by Geoffrey Chew

Cover image: *Peach Tree in Bloom* by Vincent van Gogh (1853-90) (akg-images / Electa)

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Playing Time
53:40



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Sung texts in French and Czech with
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