

Louis Spohr won an enormous reputation during the nineteenth century as a composer, violin virtuoso, conductor and teacher. At the age of twenty-one, he was appointed music director at the court of Gotha. There he met and fell in love with Dorette Scheidler, a brilliant harpist. In pursuing his courtship, Spohr composed a *Sonata for violin and harp* as an alibi for their rendezvous. After they married, Spohr studied the harp and composed more works for the instrument. The *Sonata in G major* is the longest and finest of the duo sonatas, while the *Sonata in D major* contains melodies from Mozart's *Magic Flute* in its second movement. The oratorio *Des Heilands letzte Stunden* was written when Dorette was terminally ill. In Mary's aria, sung to Christ on the Cross, he makes use of the solo violin and harp, symbols of his happy years with Dorette.

**Louis
SPOHR**
(1784-1859)

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| | Sonata in D major, Op. 114 | 23:03 |
| 1 | Allegro vivace | 12:28 |
| 2 | Andante: Potpourri on themes from The Magic Flute | 10:32 |
| 3 | Fantasie on Themes of Danzi and Vogler in B minor, Op. 118 | 11:48 |
| | Sonata in G major, Op. 115 | 29:13 |
| 4 | Allegro | 13:12 |
| 5 | Larghetto | 5:24 |
| 6 | Rondo | 10:32 |
| 7 | Mary's Aria from Des Heilands letzte Stunden* | 7:17 |
| 8 | Lied der Emma from the drama Der Erbvertrag* | 2:31 |

Sophie Langdon, Violin • Hugh Webb, Harp

Alison Smart, Soprano* • Roger Montgomery, Horn* • Susan Dorey, Cello*

Recorded at St Martin's Church East Woodhay, Newbury, Berkshire, 16th-18th August 2000

Producer and Engineer: Michael Ponder • Booklet Notes: Keith Warsop

Cover Image: *The Countess of Eglington* by Sir Joshua Reynolds (1723-92) Bridgeman Art Library

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DDD

8.555365

Playing Time
73:51



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