

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 Songs with piano, many of them still unpublished or only made available in print recently, make up a fair proportion of his output.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

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|--------------|--|--------------|
| 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

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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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DDD

Playing Time
53:40



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