

Bach composed five Passion settings, but only those based on the gospels of St Matthew and St John have survived. The first version of his *St Matthew Passion*, scored for two choirs and two orchestras, was performed on Good Friday in either 1727 or 1729. In addition to its biblical texts, there are recitatives and arias that offer reflection on the events of the Passion, and chorales that allow the chorus to add its own, more intimate meditation. The whole work is in two parts: the first taking its narrative from the events leading up to Christ's betrayal, the second from His condemnation and crucifixion.

Deutschlandfunk

Johann Sebastian

BACH

(1685-1750)

KUNSTSTIFTUNG NRW

St Matthew Passion

|                                     |                              |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Evangelist .....                    | Nico van der Meel, Tenor     |
| Jesus .....                         | Raimund Nolte, Bass-baritone |
| Petrus/Judas/Pilatus/Pontifex ..... | Locky Chung, Bass            |
| Soprano .....                       | Claudia Couwenbergh          |
| Alto .....                          | Marianne Beate Kielland      |
| Tenor .....                         | Markus Schäfer               |
| Bass .....                          | Hanno Müller-Brachmann       |

Dresden Chamber Choir (Chorus-master: Hans-Christoph Rademann)

Cologne Cathedral Boys' Choir (Chorus-master: Eberhard Metternich)

Cologne Chamber Orchestra • Helmut Müller-Brühl

|               |       |               |       |                        |       |
|---------------|-------|---------------|-------|------------------------|-------|
| CD 1          | 67:45 | CD 2          | 49:47 | CD 3                   | 43:35 |
| 1-29 Part One | 67:45 | 1-23 Part Two | 49:47 | 1-16 Part Two (contd.) | 43:35 |

A full track and cast listing can be found on pages 2 to 6 of the booklet  
 The German libretto and an English translation can be found at [www.naxos.com/libretti/stmatthew.htm](http://www.naxos.com/libretti/stmatthew.htm)

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NAXOS

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DDD

Playing Time  
2:41:07

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