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 Playing Time
 58:36


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Joseph Martin Kraus was one of the most gifted and unusual composers of the eighteenth century, whose talent for thematic development, colourful orchestration and theatrical flair caused Haydn to proclaim him one of only two 'geniuses' he knew (Mozart being the other one). It is known that Kraus played keyboard instruments with a fair degree of proficiency, but his training was first and foremost as a violinist. His *Violin Concerto in C major* is a monumental three-movement work that is similar in format, structure and length to large-scale virtuoso works by Cramer and Viotti. The incidental music for Johan Henrik Kellgren's tragedy *Olympie* consists of a powerful *Sturm und Drang* overture, an off-stage march, four entr'actes and an epilogue. The final work included here represents virtually the only portions that have survived from Kraus's early 1779 Swedish opera *Azire*. They are fragments with a joyous mood, making it all the more a pity that Kraus's first dramatic work for the stage has been lost.


**Joseph Martin
KRAUS**

(1756-1792)

- 1-3 Violin Concerto in C major, VB 151* 30:11**
 with cadenzas by Bertil van Boer
- 4-10 Olympie: Incidental Music, VB 33 20:58**
- 11-15 Azire: Ballet Music, VB 18 7:27**

WORLD PREMIÈRE RECORDINGS
*** Takako Nishizaki, Violin**
New Zealand Symphony Orchestra • Uwe Grodd

A detailed track list can be found on page 2 of the booklet

Recorded at the Town Hall, Wellington, New Zealand, from 4th to 6th September, 2006

Producer and engineer: Tim Handley

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 Cover picture: *View of Stockholm from the Fersen Terrace with the Palace Makalos*
 by Elias Martin (1739-1818) (© Nationalmuseum, Stockholm, Sweden / Bridgeman Art Library)