

Aside from his only opera *Fidelio*, Beethoven's general link with the theatre in Vienna came about largely with incidental music or songs to be inserted into the works of other composers – insertion arias. *König Stephan* was written to celebrate the politically significant opening of a new theatre in Pest, its triumphant mood honouring the ruling Austrian Emperor. Standard-bearer of female heroism Leonore Prohaska is commemorated with a *Soldier's Chorus* and a *Romance* with harp accompaniment. In Friedrich von Matthisson's poem *Opferlied* ('Sacrificial Song'), a young man prays to Zeus to bestow upon him beauty and goodness in youth and old age. Two of Beethoven's four settings are heard on this wide-ranging programme.

Ludwig van
BEETHOVEN
(1770–1827)

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| 1–23 | König Stephan, Op. 117 ('King Stephen') (1811) | 38:71 |
| 24–25 | Leonore Prohaska, WoO 96 (excerpts) (1815) | 5:31 |
| 26 | Opferlied, Op. 121b (1824 version) | 5:41 |
| 27 | Bundeslied, Op. 122 'In allen guten Stunden' (1824) | 4:38 |
| 28 | Opferlied, Op. 121b (1822 version) | 7:18 |
| 29 | Ihr weisen Gründer glücklicher Staaten, WoO 95
'Chor auf die verbündeten Fürsten' (1814) | 1:51 |
| 30 | Die gute Nachricht: Chorus: Germania, WoO 94 (1814) | 5:04 |
| 31 | Die Ehrenforten: Chorus: Es ist Vollbracht, WoO 97 (1815) | 4:22 |

**Claus Obalski, Roland Astor, Ernst Oder, Angela Eberlein, Speaker
Reetta Haavisto, Johanna Lehesvuori, Soprano • Merja Mäkelä, Alto
Niklas Spångberg, Juha Kotilainen, Bass • Päivi Severeide, Harp
Key Ensemble • Chorus Cathedralis Aboensis
Turku Philharmonic Orchestra • Leif Segerstam**

A detailed track list can be found inside the booklet. The German sung texts and English translations can be accessed at www.naxos.com/libretti/574042.htm • Recorded: 27–31 August 2018 **1–23** **25–30** and 15–19 October 2018 **24** **31** at the Turku Concert Hall, Turku, Finland
Producer, engineer and editor: Sean Lewis • Booklet notes: Keith Anderson
Cover: *St Stephen Offers his Crown to the Virgin Mary* by Gyula Benczúr (1844–1920)



8.574042

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Playing Time
74:00



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