

By the time of Emperor Joseph II's death in 1790 Beethoven was a member of the court musical establishment in Bonn. To mark the occasion, Beethoven was commissioned to write two cantatas, one to mourn Joseph's death and the other to celebrate the accession to the throne of Emperor Leopold II. Although Beethoven was only 19 years old at the time, both works show the embryonic marks of his greatness: intense expression and control of structure in one, and an almost operatic panache in the other. Neither piece was performed during Beethoven's lifetime.

Ludwig van
BEETHOVEN
(1770–1827)

1–7 **Kantate auf den Tod Kaiser Josephs II, WoO 87 'Trauerkantate'**
(‘Cantata on the Death of Emperor Joseph II’) (1790)

(Text: Severin Anton Averdonk, 1768–1817) **44:25**

8–13 **Kantate auf die Erhebung Leopold II. zur Kaiserwürde, WoO 88**
(‘Cantata on the Accession of Emperor Leopold II’) (c. 1790)
(Text: Severin Anton Averdonk) **28:19**

Reetta Haavisto 4–6, Johanna Lehesvuori 8 9 12, Soprano

Tuomas Katajala, Tenor 11 12

Juha Kötiläinen 2 3, Niklas Spångberg 10 12, Bass

Chorus Cathedralis Aboensis 1 4 7 • Key Ensemble 8 13

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/574077.htm • Recorded: 27–31 August 2018 8–13

and 15–19 October 2018 1–7 at the Turku Concert Hall, Turku, Finland

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Cover: *Portrait of Emperor Joseph II and his younger brother Grand Duke Leopold of Tuscany* (1769)
by Pompeo Battoni (1708–1787)

8.574077

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Playing Time
72:43



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