



DDD

8.557296-97

Playing Time
1:50:17

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Booklet notes in English
Sung texts in German with English translation
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St John Passion shows Bach's towering imagination at its most intensely dramatic, moving and vivid. Christ's trial and death are retold by soloists acting as participants in the event but also meditating upon it in reflective arias; the choir's role alters from rowdy mob baying for crucifixion to that of a congregation singing quiet, redemptive chorales. Criticised in its day for being too operatic, the work is now revered for its originality, for its faith and above all for its incomparable beauty of musical thought. This new reading is a testament to the vitality of the choral tradition: all soloists are former or current members of New College Choir. It also presents a new level of authenticity, not only with period instruments but also with boys' voices as Bach would have used at St Thomas's in Leipzig.

Johann Sebastian

BACH

(1685-1750)

St John Passion BWV 245

Evangelist	James Gilchrist
Christ	John Bernays
Pilate	Eamonn Dougan
Soprano	Joe Littlewood
Countertenor	James Bowman
Tenor	Matthew Beale
Bass	Colin Baldy

The Choir of New College Oxford • Collegium Novum
Edward Higginbottom

CD 1	35:25	CD 2	74:52
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[1]-[14] Part One

[1]-[27] Part Two

Recorded in the Chapel of New College Oxford, 6th - 14th July 2001, 3rd - 5th September 2001, and 29th - 30th June 2002 • Producer: Malcolm Bruno • Recording Engineer: Adrian Hunter
Post production: Classic Sound • Booklet Notes: Jeremy Siepmann
A complete track list can be found in the booklet
Cover Image: *Crucifixion I* (1991) by Craigie Aitchison (b. 1926) (Bridgeman Art Library)