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Playing Time
68:41

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Composed to celebrate the 400th anniversary of Gutenberg's invention of the printing press and taking Beethoven's *Ninth Symphony* as his model, Felix Mendelssohn's immense *Symphony No. 2*, sub-titled 'Hymn of Praise', enjoyed great success following its 1840 première in Leipzig. Using texts from the Lutheran Bible, he created a stirring symphonic cantata in which the whole world unites in a triumphant song to the Heavenly Father. Jun Märkl, whose Naxos recordings have gained high praise, leads an outstanding line-up of artists in this thrilling performance.

Felix
MENDELSSOHN
(1809-1847)



Symphony No. 2 'Lobgesang' (Hymn of Praise)

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|--|-------|--|------|
| 1 I. Sinfonia: Maestoso con moto – Allegro
– Maestoso con moto come I – | 12:24 | 7 IV. Sagt es, die ihr erlöset seid | 2:12 |
| 2 I. Allegretto un poco agitato – | 6:36 | 8 V. Ich harrete des Herrn | 5:21 |
| 3 I. Adagio religioso | 8:00 | 9 VI. Stricke des Todes hatten uns
umfängen – Wir riefen in der Finsternis
– Die Nacht ist vergangen | 4:24 |
| 4 II. Alles, was Odem hat – | 4:38 | 10 VII. Die Nacht ist vergangen | 4:26 |
| 5 II. Lobe den Herrn, meine Seele | 2:28 | 11 VIII. Chorale: Nun danket alle Gott | 4:09 |
| 6 III. Recitative: Saget es, die ihr erlöset
seid – Er zählet unsere Tränen | 3:14 | 12 IX. Drum sing ich mit meinem Liede | 4:45 |
| | | 13 X. Ihr Völker! bringet her dem Herrn | 6:03 |

Ruth Ziesak, Soprano [5 8 9 12] • Mojca Erdmann, Soprano [8]
Christian Elsner, Tenor [6 9 12]

MDR Radio Choir [4 5 7 8 10 11 13] (Chorusmaster: Howard Arman)
MDR Symphony Orchestra • Jun Märkl

The German texts and English translations can be found in the booklet,
and may also be accessed at www.naxos.com/libretti/572294.htm

Recorded at the MDR-Studio am Augustusplatz, Leipzig, Germany, from 26th to 29th August, 2008
Producer and editor: Klaus Mücke • Engineers: Evelyn Rühlemann and Robert Baldowski
Edition used: Breitkopf & Härtel • Booklet notes: Keith Anderson and Eva Grant

Cover: *Johannes Gutenberg inventing the printing press* by Jean-Antoine Laurent (1763-1832)
(The Art Archive / Musée des Beaux Arts Grenoble / Gianni Dagli Orti)