

Ludwig van Beethoven's only oratorio *Christus am Ölberge* ('Christ on the Mount of Olives') portrays Jesus' emotional struggles in the garden of Gethsemane before being seized by soldiers and taken for crucifixion. The work has an Italianate form with recitatives, arias and choruses, and its operatic attributes show Christ as a very human figure, a dramatic precursor to the sufferings of Florestan in Beethoven's *Fidelio*. The tender and beautiful *Elegischer Gesang* is a memorial to the young wife of one of Beethoven's close friends.

Ludwig van
BEETHOVEN

(1770–1827)

1–17 Christus am Ölberge, Op. 85
(‘Christ on the Mount of Olives’) (1802–03)

Text: Franz Xaver Huber (1755–1814)

Seraph Hanna-Leena Haapamäki, Soprano **4–8 14**

Jesus Jussi Myllys, Tenor **2 3 7–9 11 13–16**

Peter Niklas Spångberg, Bass **13 14**

18 Elegischer Gesang, Op. 118
(‘Elegiac Song’) (c. 1814)

Text: attrib. Ignaz Franz von Castelli (1781–1862)

Chorus Cathedralis Aboensis
Turku Philharmonic Orchestra
Leif Segerstam

A detailed track list can be found inside the booklet.

Recorded: 15–17 May 2017 at Turku Concert Hall, Turku, Finland

Producer, engineer and editor: Sean Lewis

Booklet notes: Keith Anderson • The German sung texts and English translations are included in the booklet, and may also be accessed at www.naxos.com/libretti/573852.htm

Cover: *Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives* (1885) by Edward Lear (1812–1888)

NAXOS

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Playing Time
64:07



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Booklet notes in English

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