

**Superbly crafted choral music and a rare recording of a neglected masterwork!**



**Catalogue No. 6.220684 · UPC: 7 47313 16846 0**

The inspiration for Hugo Distler's gem of a Christmas narrative can be found in the German-language protestant sacred music of the early baroque era, especially the music of Heinrich Schütz. Drawing on Schütz's example, Distler composed his Christmas story exclusively for vocalists – soloists and a 4-8-voiced ensemble – in what is, in Distler's own words, described as an "Oratorium mit kammermusikalischem Charakter".

We also hear parts of the beautiful choral *Es ist ein Ros entsprungen*, which appears seven times during the course of the narrative. – every time in a new harmonic colour.

The story of Hugo Distler's life is a tragic one. Born in Nuremberg in 1908, he would go on to teach at the School for Church Music in Spandau before being appointed professor of church music in Stuttgart in 1940. Distler, who was a deeply religious man, has been recognized as a forerunner of the New German Church Music, an important musical movement which developed in the 1930s. The Nazis stigmatized Distler's compositions as "degenerate art", and when he received his conscription papers, he took his life. Sadly, Distler's music is seldom performed outside of Germany even to this day.

Hailed by Gramophone as "a choir worth listening to for their beautiful singing, which can deliver performances of pure, natural eloquence," the 16 voices of the award-winning vocal ensemble *Concert Clemens*, founded by conductor Carsten Seyer-Hansen in 1997, has established itself as one of the leading vocal ensembles in Scandinavia. Their stylistic versatility has been seen in numerous collaborations exploring the connections between jazz and classical music as well as note-perfect interpretations of standard repertoire. The evangelist, tenor Adam Riis, is one of Denmark's leading voices.

Recorded in the DXD format by the Danish "Wizard of Sound", Preben Iwan, in the resonant sonics of Skt. Markus Kirken, Århus.

1	<i>Einleitung:</i> Das Volk, so im Finstern wandelt .....	4.10
2	<i>Choral:</i> Es ist ein Ros entsprungen .....	1.24
3	<i>Erzähler:</i> Es ward gesandt der Engel Gabriel .....	2.47
4	<i>Choral:</i> Das Röslein, das ich meine .....	1.23
5	<i>Erzähler:</i> Maria aber stand auf in den Tagen .....	1.08
6	<i>Choral:</i> Wir bitten dich von Herzen .....	1.52
7	<i>Erzähler:</i> Es begab sich aber zu der Zeit .....	1.41
8	<i>Choral:</i> Das Blümelein so kleine .....	1.29
9	<i>Erzähler:</i> Und es waren Hirten in derselben Gegend .....	1.58
10	<i>Chor der Engel:</i> Ehre sei Gott in der höhe .....	1.35
11	<i>Chor der Hirten:</i> Lasset uns nun gehen .....	2.21
12	<i>Choral:</i> Die Hirten zu der Stunde .....	1.21
13	<i>Erzähler:</i> Da Jesus geboren war zu Bethlehem .....	0.23
14	<i>Chor der Weisen:</i> Wo ist der neugeborne König .....	2.09
15	<i>Chor der Hohenpriester und Schriftgelehrten:</i> Zu Bethlehem .....	1.07
16	<i>Erzähler:</i> Denn also stehet geschrieben .....	3.02
17	<i>Choral:</i> Lob, Ehr sei Gott, dem Vater .....	2.18
18	<i>Erzähler:</i> Und siehe, ein Mensch war zu Jerusalem .....	2.13
19	<i>Choral:</i> So singen wir all Amen .....	1.22
20	<i>Beschluß:</i> Also hat Gott die Welt geliebet .....	4.30

Total: 40.17



Link for streaming of the music:  
<https://www.ourrecordings.com/stream-music>

Links for download of the music in mp3:  
<http://gofile.me/6yJPY/RWELqcEso>