

Bach Cantatas HMC901969

The first chorale of "Wer weiss, wie nahe mir mein Ende" reveals familiar problems in Philippe Herreweghe's Bach. **Exquisite work from the pacing double basses and sighing upper strings, the finest baroque oboe playing you could hope to hear and a finely blended choir** are let down by undernourished vocal soloists. Soprano Dorothy Miels shapes "Ich bin vergnugt mit meinem Glucke" cleverly. Matthew White's fruity countertenor and Thomas Bauer's stern bass are efficient enough, but Hans Jorg Mammel's bizarre, constricted tenor is an affront to "Christus, der ist mein Leben" and "Komm, du dusse Todesstunde."
Anna Picard, Independent on Sunday, 15 June 2008