



J. V. Rathgeber: Messe von Muri & Concertos

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Audite's two SACDs feature the high sonic quality we have come to expect from the label. Johann Valentin Rathgeber (1682-1750) composed his *Messe von Muri* in 1731 and the score presumably was lost until Thilo Hirsch, who conducts this performance, was able to reconstruct it from various sources. Hirsch also provided detailed information about instrumentation of all of the works on this disk stating that one of the concertos is the first known clarinet concerto and the *Telonius* concerto is the first of a concerto for "trumpet marine." Performances throughout are excellent and the recording, made in Abbey Church of Muri in October 2006, is appropriately spacious and resonant.

The other Audite issue consists of arrangements by Wilhelm Junker (who wrote CD notes) of music for organ arranged for organ and brass as well as brass ensemble. Junker plays the horn and is a member of International Brass (along with Willy Huppertz and Waldemar Jankus, trumpets, Thomas Lindt, trombone, and Matthew Pavlos Hall, tuba) heard on the other SACD, along with organist Elmar Lehnen, performing in the Papal Basilica of Our Lady at Krevelder, recorded in April 2006. Again it is a huge sonic picture and I would have preferred more separation of the brass from the organ, but in its massive way it is indeed impressive.