

## FULDA

MESSE, MOTETTEN, LIEDER

Stimmwerck

Cavalli Records CCD 330  
2007 · 58:37'

## Adam von Fulda (1445-1505)

Messe · Motetten · Lieder

Stimmwerck



Stimmwerck's first CD featured the spectacularly bulbous-nosed Heinrich Finck (5 stars in GOLDBERG 41). Adam von Fulda (c.1445-1505) worked for the Saxon Court, taught at Wittenberg University and died of the plague at 60. His fame rests mainly on his posthumously published treatise, *De Musica*. Little music by him survives. The four-voice *Missa Seit ich dich Herzlieb leiden muss*, sung *a cappella* by Stimmwerck, is based on an anonymous secular song, which the group also sings. This technically accomplished Mass looks back to Dufay, but with features reminiscent of Josquin (no details of Adam's musical education are known) and passages reduced to three or two voices, such as the "Christe eleison", whose floridity demands virtuoso singers.

Stimmwerck's guest instrumentalists, Martina Bulla (cornett) and Arno Jochem and Ann Fahrni (viols), perform a trio uncertainly attributed to Adam, *Ut fa mi re ut*, and they join in the antiphon motet, *Regali ex proge-nie*, and hymns, *Dies est laetitiae* (for Christmas) and *Ut queant laxis* (to St John the Baptist, only two verses by Adam). Adam's other surviving motet, *Sancta Dei genitrix*, is sung *a cappella*. Perhaps Stimmwerck's next CD will include his remaining five hymns. Stimmwerck and guests also perform Adam's three known secular songs. They are in Early New High German, but only modern German translations are provided.

Stimmwerck's intelligent, vivid and impeccable performances reveal a composer of great talent and depth. The four attractive voices, singing both alone and with the instruments, are beautifully balanced within the recording venue's resonant church acoustic.

CHRISTOPHER PRICE