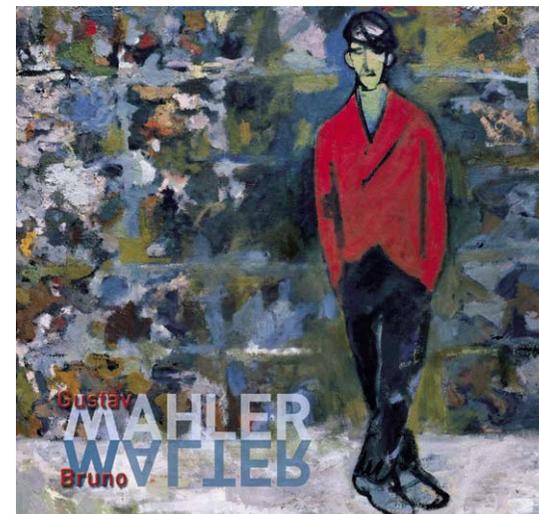




Songs by **Gustav MAHLER** and **Bruno WALTER**

Bruno Walter was Gustav Mahler's earliest, closest and — many would say — most authentic interpreter. This recording opens the door into another, unknown world — that of Walter's own creative life as a composer, revealing at once his indebtedness to Mahler, but at the same time his own powerful and distinctive voice, too long hidden in the shadow of his mentor.

Christian Hiltz and Katia Bouscarrut have worked together since 2000 in Liederprogrammes and radio recordings. They have, in their association, uncovered an equal measure of enthusiasm and inquisitiveness for the Lied art-form, expressed as a labour of love in a singleness of imagination. And the radiant contours and personal character of their interpretation is nowhere in better evidence than this, their first collaborative CD.



Hiltz, from Franconia in southern Germany, has come to the partnership with Bouscarrut through a great deal of baroque music, especially Bach, along with opera and contemporary repertory. Transparency along with the mutual influence of text and musical line are the centre of his musical work, finding its highest concentration in the artform of Lied. This unflinching musical integrity and critique extends equally to major romantic and contemporary works, like the *Lieder eines fahrenden Gesellen*, heard on this disc. Beyond a busy concert schedule that includes major festivals and orchestras in Europe and America, he has dedicated himself to teaching, both in Hochschule and masterclasses.

Born in Bordeaux, Katia Bouscarrut's earliest keyboard studies in France led her to the Hochschule für Musik Würzburg and eventually to Indiana University in the US, where she was also répétiteur and lecturer in piano. From her childhood an abiding interest in chamber music has led to collaboration with various artists and groups, but her real exploration of Lied began in a musical partnership with Christian Hiltz, elevating the art-song to a central part of her pianistic life. Bringing a precision of articulation with extreme sensitivity of touch to the demands of accompanying has yielded outstanding results. Katia Bouscarrut also teaches in Hochschule and masterclasses.



Catalogue number **2L18**
EAN **7041888504221**

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