***Graupner's cantatas for two sopranos & bass***

This CD production continues the successful recording series of recent years with works by Christoph Graupner. The first project in 2017 focused on Epiphany cantatas with the Finnish concertmaster Sirkka-Liisa Kaakinen. Rudolf Lutz from St. Gallen led the second project in 2018 with solo & dialogue cantatas. In 2020, cantatas with obbligato bassoon and Sergio Azzolini as bassoon soloist were on the program. In the present recording all cantatas for two sopranos and bass were selected, edited from the autographs and recorded for the first time. The five cantatas, written in the years 1720 and 1721, form a church year arc from Holy Week through Easter to the Sunday Jubilate. The trio instrumentation of the vocal group with two sopranos and bass corresponds to a 17th-century tradition to which Graupner evidently consciously took up here. Another special feature of church music at the Darmstadt court was that Graupner was able to have the soprano parts performed by professional singers. This allowed him to draw on a wide range of expression and high virtuosity in his compositions.