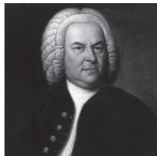


**by Patrice Connolly**

**BACH: H-MOLL MESSE**

*Gli Angeli Genève, Stephan Macleod*

CLAVES 50-3014/15



This recording of Bach's B minor Mass, written at the end of his life in 1748/9 when he was almost blind, is one for the keeping pile. A recent recording made in October 2020 features a small baroque orchestra including thirteen strings, thirteen winds and ten singers. While the orchestra is the same size as that used in 1994 by *The Sixteen* in their recording of the Mass, their choir was much larger.

The smaller forces in this new recording give a lovely transparency to the overall sound, beneficial in such compositional complexity, and an intimacy missing in recordings using greater numbers. The string players use period instruments, adding to the clarity of texture. Ensemble work throughout is exceptional. The booklet lists the choir and orchestra on the front and photos of the performers are included. The comprehensive introduction is in three languages, but the Latin text is only translated into French.

*Gli Angeli Genève* have won a number of awards for their CDs in the last decade, specialising in Bach's cantatas, but also for the music of baroque and classical eras in general.