



Milan Turković

Monika Mertl

THE STRANGEST VIENNESE IN THE WORLD - NIKOLAUS HARNONCOURT AND HIS CONCENTUS MUSICUS

50 years of musical expeditions

With b/w fotos and a CD

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This portrait of an ensemble of great stylistic influence traces its history from its pioneering days to the present.

Nowadays this is all taken for granted. The classical music market is populated by whole droves of ensembles producing "original" sound, young musicians demonstrate their mastery on period instruments, and the term "Klangrede" [music as speech] has long become everyday usage. In 1953, when the cellist Nikolaus Harnoncourt and his wife Alice, a violinist, began a private artistic experiment together with a handful of interested colleagues, Early Music was uncharted territory. For four years, Harnoncourt and his friends rehearsed in their living-room, researching musical material and instruments, techniques and sounds until they were ready to venture into public performance. Insatiable curiosity, unseen assiduity and inexhaustible devotion to an idea whose success was unforeseeable charact...

MILAN TURKOVIĆ

is a freelance bassoon soloist and conductor. He is member of the Concentus Musicus Vienna, the ensemble Vienna-Belrin and of the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center in New York. Moreover he works as paedagogue and author.

MONIKA MERTL

born in Vienna in 1955, studied dramaturgy, German and Romance literatures. She has published numerous articles on music, portraits of artists and reviews. She editor of the official catalog of the Salzburg Festival and lives as a freelance journalist in Vienna. Read more