

SALES-INFORMATION APRIL 2024



musica viva

HELMUT LACHENMANN (*1935)
My Melodies

Symphonieorchester des Bayerischen Rundfunks
Matthias Hermann, Conductor
Norbert Ommers, Sound Director

- **Booklet:** in German / in English
- **Jewelcase with O-Card**
- **Product Number: 900643**
- **Total Time: 68'16 min.**

Street Date: April 5, 2024



HELMUT LACHENMANN

My Melodies - Music for eight horns and orchestra

To mark the 75th anniversary of the Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra (BRSO) in 2024, the BR-KLASSIK label is now making previously unreleased recordings of concerts worth listening to available on CD and as a stream.

The six-part composition *My Melodies* for eight horns and orchestra was composed between 2016 and 2018, revised for the first time in 2019, and then again in 2023 as the *musica viva* Munich version. It was commissioned by Bavarian Radio's *musica viva* with the support of the Friends of the Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra e.V. This is a live recording of the premiere of the Munich 2023 version of June 23, 2023 from the Herkulesaal, again as part of BR's *musica viva* concert series, with the horn section and the Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra under the direction of Matthias Hermann.

Helmut Lachenmann, born in Stuttgart in 1935, is one of the most renowned German composers of contemporary music. He studied piano, music theory and counterpoint in Stuttgart and composition with Luigi Nono in Venice. The first public performances of his works took place in 1962 at the Venice Biennale and at the Darmstadt Summer Courses for New Music. He taught composition in Hanover (1976-1981) and in Stuttgart (1981-1999), and gave numerous master classes in Germany and abroad. His works are performed by internationally renowned players and orchestras all over the world. Helmut Lachenmann has received numerous awards, most recently the GEMA German Music Authors' Prize for his life's work (2015).

The phenomenon of melody has long preoccupied Helmut Lachenmann. He went to study in Venice at the end of the 1950s with Luigi Nono, a teacher who strictly insisted on a critically reflective approach to musical material. Nono had objected to any trace of linear progression in Lachenmann's compositional sketches as a "tonal cell" – a melodic object that was seen as a recourse to a romanticising tonal language

that had to be overcome. The impetus for the scoring of *My Melodies* came from a rehearsal of Lachenmann's opera *The Little Match Girl* in Madrid in 2008: eight horns forming a homogeneous yet at the same time complex instrument. The premiere took place ten years later. In 2023, *My Melodies* was extended by 77 additional bars since that first performance, with Lachenmann drawing on further sketch material. It is rare for the composer to alter his own works after their premiere - but the sound ideas for the eight horns seem to have retained a special fascination for him. The bonus tracks offer short excerpts from this concert recording of *My Melodies*. They present characteristic passages of the work, inviting listeners to detect specific noises or sequences and to familiarise themselves with Lachenmann's world of sound.

- Helmut Lachenmann's *My Melodies* in the revised version, Munich 2023; live recording of the premiere on June 23, 2023 from the Herkulesaal of the Munich Residenz as part of Bavarian Radio's *musica viva* concert series
- Bonus tracks with excerpts from this concert recording
- Conversation between the composer and Johann Jahn about the *musica viva* premiere of *My Melodies* in 2018

Horn section of the Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra:

Carsten Duffin, Ursula Kepser, Thomas Ruh, Ralf Springmann, Norbert Dausacker, François Bastian, Marlene Pschorr (guest), Marcin Sikorski

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