



Homelands Vol. 1

Ensemble Cythera
Mihály Zeke

February 2021, Paraty

The choir is sparkling, vigorous as well as tender, as colourful as you might wish. The cheerful finale is irresistible. Splendid Kodály interpreted inspiringly. [...] When Marie Vermeulin joins the choir for the following well known collection, she's an extra voice, a partner, who fuses with the choir as more than an accompanist. The interpretation offered to us is conjured up for us to refer to. [...] Could we find a better guide for this grand journey than Mihály Zeke? [...] He's a complete musician, accompanist, choral conductor, opera conductor... You really must discover his latest recording. Perfection is in the coming together: first of all musically, then phonetically, for the care taken over the intelligibility and colour of each of the languages is constant.

*Yvan Beuvar, **ForumOpéra**, March 2021* ♥♥♥♥

With intensity and stylistic subtlety Cythera portrays the sound world of middle to eastern Europe. [...] With the first part (the Pentalogy) this young ensemble has already marked a fantastic achievement. The recordings [...] captivate us through their splendid liveliness and directness of expression as well as through their precision of articulation and homogeneity of sound.

*Karsten Blüthgen, **Chorzeit**, May 2021*

Cythera delivers an always transparent and homogeneous sound that shows pleasant presence in all dynamic levels. On the stable foundation of the male voices, the soprano and alto move elegantly and with an at times refreshingly boyish, silvery smoothness.

*Jan-Geert Wolff, **Pizzicato**, February 2021* 🎵🎵🎵🎵

The Cythera Ensemble impresses us with the quality of its performance. [...] The Three German Folk-songs opus 49 by Schönberg, for mixed four voice choir, highlight the choral cohesion of the Cythera Ensemble, which here outclasses the BBC Singers under the too static beat of Boulez.

*Jérémie Bigorie, **Classica**, May 2021* ****

A compelling aspect of this recording is the ability of Ensemble Cythera to realize each performance without artificially superimposing themselves upon the composition. [...]

The emotional sincerity in each performance draws the listener into the pastoral and often-times intimate nature of each story instead of keeping the listener at a distance. Artistic Director, Mihály Zeke confidently conveys clarity of text and emotional content without sacrificing balance of performing forces or narrative arc from the most straightforward settings to the most complex. There is a consistent aural palate achieved throughout the recording, which speaks to an incredibly high level of understanding, sensitivity, and technical facility from the singers.

*T.J. Harper, **International Choral Bulletin**, April 2021*