

## Markuspassion

### BBC 3 – Record Review vom 30. März 2024

Moderator: Andrew McGregor (AMG)

AMG: [...] ... and if you find the idea of Easter weekend without Bach unthinkable, don't forget that yesterday's Good Friday performance of Bach's St. John Passion on its 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary is available on BBC Sounds. And I'll have a *new* recording of the St. *Mark* Passion for you later that you should find interesting.

[...]

AMG: Now, there is always a hand full of new Passion recordings for Holy Week and Easter; and for me the most intriguing this year is a St. Mark Passion. It's Picander's text, as used by Johann Sebastian Bach in his lost Passion setting from Leipzig for Good Friday 1731. Now, various speculative parodies from other Passions have been created around that text over the years, using various other Bach pieces. But this is a completely new composition by Swiss composer and conductor Nikolaus Matthes – written in the baroque style.

[Musiknummern 2a-e und 3 komplett – Rezitativ: »Und nach zwei Tagen...« etc. und Choral »Sie stellen uns wie Ketzern nach«]

AMG: A St. Mark Passion which sounds *so* baroque – but it was actually created in the last couple of years by Swiss composer Nikolaus Matthes. He is also conducting this ad hoc orchestra, choir and soloists. And sometimes you can feel Matthes stretching the harmonic envelope. Now I find myself, thinking: Yes, but Bach did something *like* that in *this* Cantata or *that* Passion, and it reminds us what an extraordinary composer and eloquent harmonist he was. – I found this surprisingly effective, especially in a performance as committed as this – despite the lack of stary names, made at the dress rehearsal and first live performances in Switzerland last year. A brand new St. Mark Passion that often feels as old as Bach, but simultaneously fresh and vital. It's just arrived on the *resonando* label; 3 CDs.