

BEETHOVEN



ROBERT BACHMANN CONDUCTS LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN

ARVA CLASSICS DVD 3900102-1 1

Eroica Ecstasy

As composer of the multimedia evocation ULURU, Robert Bachmann examines immortal master-works of western music from a new viewpoint. A special kind of connection is made to Beethoven's *Sinfonia Eroica*, for example, by quoting from this work midst in one part of ULURU. Beethoven's music arises like an island in the ocean of primeval tonality in which the listener is immersed.

Bachmann calls this section *Eroica Ecstasy*, pointing out thereby that ecstasy is an indispensable primeval element of transcendental experience. This last movement of the *Eroica* symphony is based on the mythical creation story of Prometheus, whose children dance ecstatically at recognizing the 'Godly plan'. The ongoing motif theme with its infectious dance rhythm forms the basis for a repetitive meditation process aimed at attaining a trance-like condition. The wizards, Schamans, priests and wise men, the inspired and the spiritual masters attained higher knowledge in this condition of greater consciousness. Meditation through repetitive formulae that thus strengthen is therefore an element of most religions and philosophies. This is where Beethoven's ecstatic dance rhythms meet the prehistoric culture of the Australian aborigines. For them, an ecstatic trance condition is also an element of spiritual consciousness. Like their "dreamtime", Uluru or Ayer's Rock is for them a central coordinate in the complex structure of our world.

Eroica Ecstasy enables the hearer to get some impression of that experience. This kind of meditation helps to uphold a consciousness which our consumer society – also with respect to art and music – is in danger of losing. The great composers did not intend their master-works to be exhibited in the surrealistic art museum of posterity. Their language is 'from heart to heart', as expressly stated by Beethoven in the dedication of his *Missa Solemnis*. The mission of such great music is to communicate directly with those who are able and willing to hear the message. *Eroica Ecstasy* reminds us impressively of this.

Benjamin Gunnar Cohrs