



D. BUXTEHUDE
(1637-1707)
MEMBRA JESU NOSTRI

CD STR 37004
[8011570370044]
Digipak

Rosso Porpora
Walter Testolin *director*



CANTATA I: AD PEDES
CANTATA II: AD GENUA
CANTATA III: AD MANUS
CANTATA IV: AD LATUS
CANTATA V: AD PECTUS
CANTATA VI: AD COR
CANTATA VII: AD FACIEM

The work is dedicated to Gustav Düben, organist and *Kapellmeister* in Stockholm, who was not only a personal friend of Buxtehude but also responsible for the preservation of many of his compositions which came together in the Düben collection, today held in the library of the University of Uppsala. Buxtehude's choice to write the first version of *Membra Jesu Nostri* in the form of tablature for the organ was a gesture that contributed to emphasising the closeness of the two musicians. On the other hand, this composition was not only a declaration of affection and friendship but an authentic spiritual testament. *Membra Jesu Nostri* is a meditation on the seven parts of the Mystical Body, to which there correspond seven cantatas, each of which is divided into six episodes.

Membra Jesu nostri is a long progress which begins with an ascent (the two ascending sixteenths of *Ecce super montes*), and ends with an ascent. It is a progressive focussing, a slow act of awareness. It is a Sacred Representation. The execution is consciously not totally philological from the musical point of view: for example, there are not five soloists who sing *a parti reali* as the author probably thought, but a sort of doctrinal philology that tries to restore as far as possible the idea of a community united around the idea of Word, and many voices to represent it completely.