

IMMORTAL PERFORMANCES

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*A note to those acquiring our re-mastered version of
the Missa Solemnis (dated October 2011)*

The best we could achieve in our original, released August 2011, offered improved sonics that still were afflicted by a covered top and a strange acoustic that made it seem as if the sound issued from a tunnel. This was further complicated by aspects that suggested that a spurious bass had been added to the lacquers somewhere in the original dubdown. In three years of sporadic work on the master tape these elements could be diminished but never conquered.

It wasn't until October 2011, many months after our album was released, that I made the breakthrough I had been seeking. The result was the sound was now far brighter (without pushing up the upper registers which would have vastly increased the surface noise), the middle range no longer has that tunneling compression and the bass end was now corrected so that the tympani and double basses had greater clarity and natural tone. This extended range permitted me to do further work on the dynamics between piano and fortissimo passages. The improvement in the sound becomes more evident as the performance progresses and is particularly evident in Track 3, especially in the final chorus (fugue) in the concluding portion of the *Gloria*, and tracks 4 and 5, the *Credo*. An A/B comparison will amply demonstrate this.

The re-mastering, while significantly improving the sonics, necessarily left various thumps and the occasional instances of ticks and grit as any additional noise suppression would have injured the overtones of the voices and instruments, such as they were (given the a.m. radio transmission and the private recording made of it). Those who purchased our original release (July 2011) can compare its sound to that of this new restoration if they have two CD players and can better judge the degree of improvement.

We are unhappy that this improvement occurred *after* the performance was released and given critical estimate in various magazines and purchases by many music lovers. We are making the re-master available *free* to all previous purchasers we can locate, as well as the music critics and websites and will be sure that all albums sold hereafter will contain the re-mastered version. Hopefully, the old adage 'better late than never' applies here.

Also, it was brought to our attention after the final replication of the original CDs, that there was an unfortunate error in the CD 2 Bonus track 8, *Simon Boccanegra* excerpt (Act 1, Scene 1). Two lines are repeated. This error has been corrected in the discs sent to you now.

Richard Caniell
Sound Engineer