

# Franz Schubert

## Mass in G

Schubert wrote this simple but charming setting of the Mass in 1815 for his local church in Liechtenthal, a suburb of Vienna. He was just 18 years old. The original accompaniment was for strings and organ, but when it was published thirty years later, his brother Ferdinand added parts for wind and timpani.

This youthful work is a fine example of Schubert's lyrical skill, heard to particularly fine effect in the *Kyrie* and *Benedictus*. The setting owes its formal plan to Mozart's and Haydn's short Viennese Masses, especially in the *Sanctus* where a weighty opening section is followed by a lively, vigorous fugue. The *Gloria*, too, displays a contrast of mood but here a lyrical central section is framed by music of great fire. The *Credo* opens and closes quietly with the *Crucifixus* section providing a more forceful episode. The *Agnus Dei*, with its choral pleas interspersing the soloists' phrases, brings the work to a peaceful conclusion.

*Programme notes provided by unknown, May 2011*