

**Hessischer Rundfunk 2 –
Radio feature to „Monumente der Klassik“/ DVD Box-Release
„Kent Nagano conducts classical Masterpieces“**

Natascha Pflaumenbaum from the Radiowelle hr2 reviews at 15.12.2007:
(translation: Julia Hertäg)

Concert recordings on TV are, I have to admit, most of the times boring to death. The Deutsche Welle has now released an edition of 6 concert recordings on the label Arthouse Music, that are so good that they take your breath.

That music as an image can be as good as that: This edition is the proof.

(...)

These concert movies are all exciting: Because the camera and the image directing support congenially Nagano's interpretation of the work, and because they give an understanding of the orchestral apparatus that you usually don't have as a listener.

(...)

The typical filmic concert documentation show in a rather boring manner: long shot, jump to close, close-up shots in a regular order. But here perspectives are newly invented. Wide angled bottom views on single instruments, super-close shots that sometimes show the violin bow super sharply, camera travellings with a crane so that the pictures are born like from a sailing airplane. You can seldomly experience that playing music is so asthetic. It is above all the cloeness to the orchestra that enthuses so much: as if you were sitting in the middle of it.

The directing of Ellen Fellmann propagates a new visual asthetic in the profession of the concert documentation: quick cuts in quick compositions, cut-off camera travellings, hectic movements, 360 grade rotations with super wide angle, camera rotations that put the aorchestra upside down and camera movements that make the sace magically merge with the orchestra. In this magic way image and sound becaome one single thing: You never have the feeling that the music is just beeing illustrated in a sedate manner. By putting the focus on the performance the director makes a clear interpretation of the performed work: her interpretation - and that is already happening by the picture. (...)

In times when everything ist becoming an "event", when stars a mystified in a obsessive way, this edition is a wonderful jewel.