

Westdeutscher Rundfunk
Radio Feature WDR 3, Mosaik

**Concerning „Monumente der Klassik“ the DVD Production
„Kent Nagano conducts classical Masterpieces“, 27.08.2007
by Daniel Finkernagel**

(...)

Let's talk about the concert recordings. Can this dvd production offer something that I don't get anywhere else? Even the best dvd production cannot bring the live event of attending a concert into my homeplace. Does this production accomplish something different?

Daniel Finkernagel:

Certainly it does. You have to start from Naganos interpretation. He says that Beethoven's Eroica doesn't celebrate some hero, but it celebrates the human being as an individual. The human being that has to establish oneself in society. No matter where he starts from, no matter how many strokes of fate he has to overcome. He can do it by his own force. At the end he can be the winner in the struggle with his life. That is what Beethoven tries to implement with his Eroica. This individuality is being transformed in an incredible manner in these recordings. Ellen Fellmann, the young director, accomplishes an extraordinary work with her debut as a director. She shows us the orchestra as a collective that consists of individuals. You have many close shots, you really can see the musicians doing their work. You can have a look over their shoulders while they are making music. Finally for once you don't have these knee or long shots. The camera work is very experimental, very quick cuts. That is because Ellen Fellmann herself is a composer, she knows the score, she knows the structure and she resolves it congenially. You see something and you hear it in a different way, this way of recording of classical music helps us to listen. I am convinced that if you have seen this dvd, the next time you will look at the musicians and listen to them in a different way, And that is, I think, a really great credit of this dvd, that it finally does not just illustrate classical music but it interpretes it.

Daniel Finkernagel recommended monuments of Classical Music. All six symphonies are available individually from September on, in November there will be a dvd box that is completed by a seventh dvd with a classical making of and a 60 minutes portrait of Nagano.