

CD Review: Joseph Haydn (arr. José Peris). *The Seven Last Words of Christ: Version for String Quartet and Voice*. Henschel Quartett and Susanne Kelling (mezzo-soprano).

by Michael Weiss

Joseph Haydn (arr. José Peris). *The Seven Last Words of Christ: Version for String Quartet and Voice*. Henschel Quartett and Susanne Kelling (mezzo-soprano). Recorded 17–19 January 2012, Challenge Classics CC 72546, 2012, compact disc.

<http://www.challengerecords.com/products/1327409654/>



Haydn's *The Seven Last Words of Christ on the Cross* is no stranger to alternate versions. It first appeared as orchestral meditations on the final utterances of Christ on the cross as part of a Good Friday service in 1787, following a commission from Cadiz in Spain. For musical amateurs to enjoy these seven adagios (Haydn called them 'sonatas') with introduction and earthquake in the comfort of their own homes, Haydn adapted the collection for string quartet and also approved a keyboard version. After

hearing a vocal arrangement in Passau by Joseph Friberth, he made his own oratorio-like version (published 1801) adding an interlude for wind and brass and calling upon Baron von Swieten to provide the text.