

## Irene Kurka

### *Beten. Prayer*

Edition Wandelweiser CD

Although the Edition Wandelweiser imprint carries with it well defined expectations – muted dynamics; a deliberately delimited range of musical materials; meaningful integration of silence – it can still surprise. This new addition is devoted to prayer or devotional songs for solo soprano written by Antoine Beuger, James Weeks, Dante Boon, Sidney Corbett, Nikolaus Brass and Eva-Maria Houben. The music is generally austere, although Corbett's *Gebet* and Brass's *Benediktionen* seem lavishly soaring and ornate in this context. Boon's *Mirte* smuggles in a piano, albeit tightly circumscribed in its punctuating role. The recording was made in a Bavarian basilica, which might suggest a chaste and impersonal acoustic; but Irene Kurka, a superb singer who specialises in repertoire for unaccompanied voice, brings a warm tone and surprising intimacy.