

## MARIO BRUNELLO

ANTONIO PAPPANO

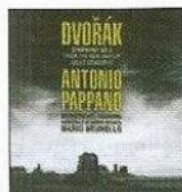
ACCADEMIA DI SANTA CECILIA

**DVOŘÁK** Cello Concerto  
in B minor op.104,  
Symphony no.9 in D minor  
'From the New World'

**Mario Brunello (cello)**  
**Orchestra dell'Accademia  
Nazionale di Santa Cecilia/  
Antonio Pappano**

EMI CLASSICS 914 1022 (TWO DISCS)

**An interesting Italianate take  
on a Czech masterpiece**



This live recording made during the Santa Cecilia orchestra's 2011–12 season

couples a feisty account of Dvořák's 'New World' Symphony with a performance of the Cello Concerto that has a strongly operatic character. Clearly such a concept is shared between Antonio Janigro pupil and Tchaikovsky Competition winner Mario Brunello and conductor Antonio Pappano, who view the structure of the concerto as a staged discussion between two contrasting forces. Certainly when the sumptuous tones of Brunello's Maggini cello join the dialogue there is the notion of a singer walking on stage.

Sometimes this approach works beautifully, as in the Adagio, where there are some exquisitely shaped phrases, even though Brunello tends to ignore the 'ma non troppo' part of Dvořák's tempo instructions. The rubato seems less convincing in the opening Allegro, where the exaggerated ritardando into the second subject feels too robust an exclamation mark and the frequent oscillations in tempo tend to make the rest of the movement feel rather episodic. Having said that, this warmly recorded performance offers an intense and passionate view of the work that becomes increasingly persuasive on repeated hearing.

JOANNE TALBOT