

The Palazzetto Bru Zane presents



# LES ABENCÉRAGES

LUIGI CHERUBINI (1760-1842)

Opera in three acts by Luigi Cherubini on a libretto by Étienne de Jouy, premiered on 6 April 1813 at the Académie Impériale de Musique (Paris)

Recording from 7 to 9 March 2022 at the Béla Bartók National Concert Hall at the Müpa Budapest (Hungary)

Éditions musicales Palazzetto Bru Zane

**Release date: 4 November 2022**



György Vashegyi, *direction*

ORFEO ORCHESTRA

PURCELL CHOIR

Anaïs Constans, Edgaras Montvidas, Thomas Dolié, Artavazd Sargsyan, Philippe-Nicolas Martin, Tomislav Lavoie, Douglas Williams, Lőránt Najbauer, Ágnes Pintér

3 CDs / 140 pages (texts and libretto)

Essays by Alexandre Dratwicki, Raúl González Arévalo and Jean Mongrédién

Libretto and sung texts in French and in English

**Bru Zane Label**

Distribution

**outhere**  
DISTRIBUTION

Recording available for download and streaming on digital platforms with libretto available for download online

BZ 1050



Cherubini's *Les Abencérages*, premiered in 1813, heralds the spectacle and extravagance of Romantic grand opera. From the Alhambra gardens to the battlefield, the action skilfully intertwines political conspiracies with a love story. Underpinned by the energy and timbres of period instruments, this recording demonstrates the work's modernity and its musical qualities. Anaïs Constans valiantly tackles the demanding role of Noraïme, while Edgaras Montvidas displays his lyric tenor voice in a series of sublime airs whose beauty was already hinted at by none other than Roberto Alagna in a recital disc released in 2003. Around this couple, a plethora of soloists achieves the same high standards of French diction and style. The Hungarian conductor György Vashegyi, flanked by the Purcell Choir and Orfeo Orchestra, reveals here another key milestone of French Romantic opera.

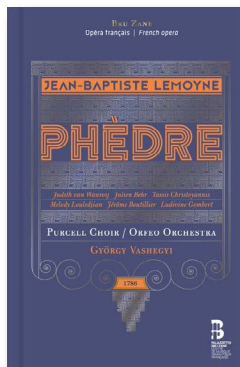
## **Italiano, ma non troppo...**

The importance of foreign composers in the construction of the national genre of French opera has often been remarked upon – and rightly so. Cherubini represents a special case in this context. Though trained in the Italian manner, he formed a link between the Vienna of Mozart and Beethoven and the Paris of Méhul and Grétry rather than with the composers of his native land. It was in this context of experimentation that Cherubini was assigned Étienne de Jouy's libretto for *Les Abencérages*. Through its subtle political references, the opera displays the exoticism of the settings, the picturesque nature of the social traditions and the violence of religious obligations. To amplify the tragic destinies of its truly Romantic heroine, the librettist uses all the key elements of the *mélodrame* that the Parisian audience loved. The composer, very much in tune with his time, seized upon the best of his contemporaries' inspirations and made them his own. On the occasion of this recording, the Palazzetto Bru Zane has edited and published for the first time the complete set of performing materials (full and vocal scores, orchestral parts), which had remained in manuscript form until now.

# BRU ZANE LABEL PUBLICATIONS

*Les Abencérages* adds a new chapter to the collaboration between the Palazzetto Bru Zane – Centre de musique romantique française, Orfeo Orchestra and the Purcell Choir conducted by György Vashegyi, following two publications by Bru Zane Label : the digital edition of *Adrien* by Méhul in 2014 and the CD-book of *Phèdre* by Lemoyné in 2020.

## CD-BOOK



**Jean-Baptiste Lemoyné**

*Phèdre* (1786)

ORFEO ORCHESTRA

PURCELL CHOIR

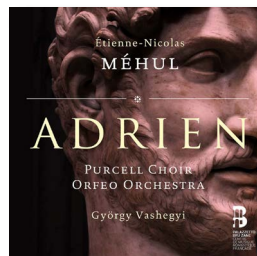
György Vashegyi direction

with Judith van Wanroij, Julien Behr,  
Tassis Christoyannis,  
Melody Louledjian, Jérôme Boutillier,  
Ludivine Gombert

“French Opera” Series – Vol. 24

2020

## DOWNLOAD ONLY



**Étienne-Nicolas Méhul**

*Adrien* (1791)

ORFEO ORCHESTRA

PURCELL CHOIR

György Vashegyi direction

with Philippe Do, Gabrielle Philiponet,  
Jennifer Borghi, Philippe Talbot,  
Marc Barrard, Nicolas Courjal,  
Jean Teitgen, Katalin Szutrély

2014

# UPCOMING RELEASES, BRU ZANE LABEL

## CD-BOOK

**Gaspard Spontini**

*La Vestale* (1807)

LES TALENS LYRIQUES

VLAAMS RADIOKOOR

Christophe Rousset direction

with Marina Rebeka,  
Stanislas de Barbeyrac,  
Tassis Christoyannis,  
Aude Extrémo, Nicolas Courjal

“French Opera” Series

Release: April 2023

## CDS

**Les Nuits de Paris**

*Romantic Ballet music*

LES SIÈCLES

François-Xavier Roth

direction

Release: January 2023

**COMPOSITRICES**

*New light on French*

*Romantic Women*

*Composers*

8 CDs

Release: February 2023

A coproduction of **Palazzetto Bru Zane**, **Müpa Budapest**  
and **Orfeo Music Foundation** with the support of **EMMI**  
and **Haydneum**.



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BRUZANEMEDIABASE.COM

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