

The Palazzetto Bru Zane presents



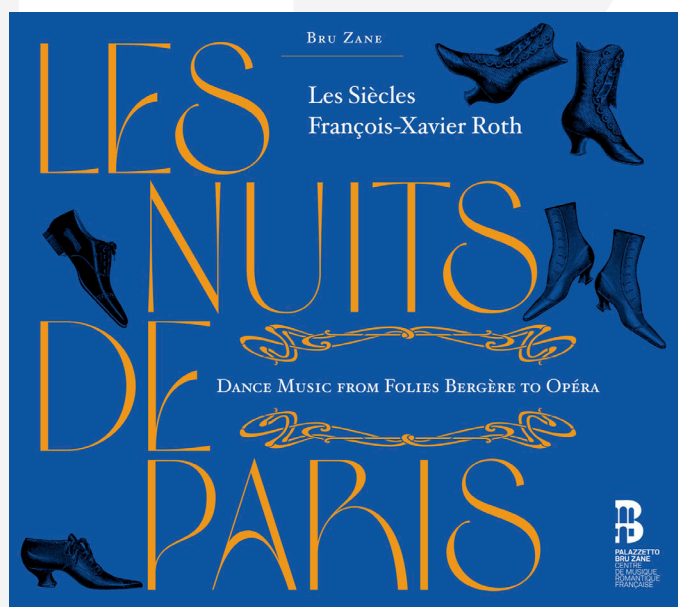
LES NUITS DE PARIS

DANCE MUSIC FROM FOLIES BERGÈRE TO OPÉRA

Recorded at the Théâtre Raymond Devos in Tourcoing (France), on 8 and 9 January 2022.

Published by Éditions musicales du Palazzetto Bru Zane

Release date: 27 January 2023



LES SIÈCLES

François-Xavier Roth, *conductor*

Works by Massenet, Hervé, Danglas, Strauss, Dubois, Waldteufel, Gounod, Joncières, Saint-Saëns, Thomas, Guiraud, Musard et Delibes

1 CD / 63 pages

Bru Zane Label

Distribution

outhere
DISTRIBUTION

Available for download and streaming on the main digital platforms and libretto available for download online

BZ 2005



Introductory texts in French, English and German

Texts by Alexandre Dratwicky and Étienne Jardin

The dance permeated every layer of Romantic society. From popular dance halls to courtly salons, people showed their public face, enjoyed themselves and met one another in waltz time or to the rhythms of the quadrille or the polka. At the same time, ballet gained unprecedented fame on the stage of the Paris Opéra. The music that accompanied this frantic round in France has long been neglected, whereas the Viennese have never ceased to celebrate their waltzes. Under the expert baton of François-Xavier Roth, the orchestra Les Siècles has set out to rediscover this French repertoire using historical instruments. Their album explores the output of both established composers – Camille Saint-Saëns, Ambroise Thomas, Charles Gounod, Jules Massenet – and their colleagues who specialised in Terpsichorean entertainment, including Philippe Musard, Isaac Strauss, Émile Waldteufel and Hervé.

A unique orchestra composed of musicians from a new generation, playing each repertoire on the appropriate historical instruments: **Les Siècles** put several centuries of musical creation into perspective in a relevant and unexpected way. They have performed in the whole world, and are in residence in the Atelier Lyrique in Tourcoing, at the Théâtre des Champs-Élysées (in Paris), as well as in the Aisne department, in the Hauts-de-France French region. Their projects have received praises and prizes from the French and international press. They have been recording for the harmonia mundi label since 2018 the complete orchestral music of Berlioz, Ravel and Debussy. They are beginning a new recording cycle dedicated to Mahler's symphonies.

THREE QUESTIONS TO FRANÇOIS-XAVIER ROTH



How would you define this dance and ballet repertoire?

This programme is, I think, a good illustration of a type of composition, associated with ballet, the dance, bright overtures and other such confections, that are a very French speciality. Is it a tradition inherited from the time of Louis XIV? Or does it go even further back than that? I can't say. But it is a fact that French composers, ever since Lully, have constantly excelled in that genre. The great French orchestras of the nineteenth century were internationally renowned for the virtuosity of their playing and the brightness and clarity of their articulation, and that is not without relevance to the composition of these works. Indeed, musicians very often inspire composers.

Do you think they can compete with the famous dance music of Vienna?

The Viennese have, I believe, had the intelligence to do something that we in France perhaps were unable to do – that is to say, make dances (polkas, waltzes, and so on) part of a dynamic living tradition, as we see from the famous New Year's Concert given by the Vienna Philharmonic, and the Viennese Balls that have never ceased to exist. This type of music has become part of their collective unconscious. For political and cultural reasons, we have not done the same in France, although dances could just as easily, and even more pertinently, be associated with Paris and a certain French musical tradition.

Did you fall in love with any work in particular?

With several, in fact. But all of them are delightful really; working on this programme with the Palazzetto Bru Zane and its artistic director, Alexandre Dratwicki, was so stimulating, both for the orchestra and myself. I would say that I particularly like the polka *Bella Bocca* by Waldteufel, which I was able to discover through this experience. And if I have to refer to my own culture in this music, with a piece that brings back memories, I would certainly say Ambroise Thomas's *Raymond Overture*. It's a piece of music that I discovered as a flute student at the Conservatoire, and which gives me the same feeling of disbelief every time I hear it: how is it possible that this music is never played, even in my own country, France?

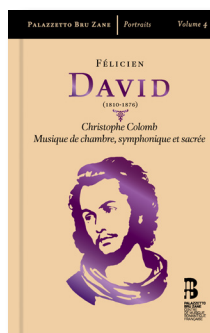
François-Xavier Roth is one of today's most charismatic and enterprising conductors. He is the *Generalmusikdirektor* of the city of Cologne since 2015, becoming the artistic director of both the opera house and the orchestra of Gürzenich. He is the Principal Guest Conductor of the London Symphony Orchestra, the artistic director of the *Atelier Lyrique de Tourcoing*, the conductor and will be the artistic director of the Stuttgart Radio Symphony Orchestra (SWR) in 2025-2026. François-Xavier Roth invests time and effort in music education and to reach new audiences. A tireless champion of contemporary music, Roth is conductor of the ground-breaking LSO Panufnik Composers Scheme since 2005. He has premiered works by Philippe Manoury, Yann Robin, Georg-Friedrich Haas, Hèctor Parra and Simon Steen-Andersen and collaborated with composers like Pierre Boulez, Wolfgang Rihm, Jörg Widmann and Helmut Lachenmann. He was created a *Chevalier de la Légion d'honneur* in 2017.

THE PALAZZETTO BRU ZANE AND LES SIÈCLES

The Palazzetto Bru Zane – Centre de musique romantique française has collaborated with Les Siècles for over ten years. Six publications were supported by the Foundation and two CD-books were published by Bru Zane Label. The ensemble will celebrate the **twenty years anniversary at the Théâtre des Champs-Élysées on 10 January 2023** in collaboration with the Palazzetto Bru Zane.



Camille Saint-Saëns
Le Timbre d'argent (1864)
LES SIÈCLES
ACCENTUS
François-Xavier Roth conductor
"Opéra français" Series
vol. 25
BRU ZANE LABEL – 2020



Féliçien David
Christophe Colomb, chamber, symphonic and sacred music
LES SIÈCLES
François-Xavier Roth conductor
BRUSSELS PHILHARMONIC
FLEMISH RADIO CHOIR
"Portraits" Series
vol. 4
BRU ZANE LABEL – 2017

PRESSEKONTAKT
Ophelias Culture PR
Ulrike Wilckens
Johannisplatz 3a
D - 81667 München
+49 89 67 97 10 50
letter@ophelias-pr.com

Palazzetto Bru Zane
contact@bru-zane.com

More information on the digital data
on the nineteenth-century French repertoire

BRUZANEMEDIABASE.COM

Palazzetto Bru Zane
Centre de musique
romantique française
San Polo 2368
30125 Venice - Italy
f @ t v in
BRU-ZANE.COM