

The Palazzetto Bru Zane in collaboration with  
the Orchestre Philharmonique Royal de Liège presents



# HULDA

CÉSAR FRANCK (1822-1890)

Opera in four acts and an epilogue after Bjørnstjerne Bjørnson's *Halte-Hulda*.  
First performance of a revised abridged version in Monte Carlo on 4 March 1894.

Complete uncut version.

Recording from 17 to 20 May 2022 at the Liège Philharmonic Hall and at the Namur Concert Hall

Publisher Choudens

*Release date: 7 July 2023*



Gergely Madaras, *conductor*

ORCHÈSTRE PHILHARMONIQUE ROYAL DE LIÈGE  
CHŒUR DE CHAMBRE DE NAMUR

Jennifer Holloway, Véronique Gens, Judith van Wanroij,  
Marie Gautrot, Ludivine Gombert, Edgaras Montvidas,  
Matthieu Lécroart, Christian Helmer, Artavazd Sargsyan,  
François Rougier, Sébastien Droy, Guilhem Worms et  
Matthieu Toulouse

Essays by Alexandre Dratwicki, Gérard Condé and  
Vincent Giroud and historic text by Alfred Bruneau

3 CDs / 164 pages (texts and libretto in French and English)

Bru Zane Label

Distribution

**outthere**  
DISTRIBUTION

Recording available for download and streaming on digital plat-  
forms with libretto available for download online

Listen to the CD-book online 



BZ 1052

*Hulda*, completed in 1885, was never staged in César Franck's lifetime. This gory medieval legend recounts the multiple acts of vengeance its heroine inflicts on the Aslak clan, which slaughtered her family, and on her unfaithful lover Eiof. Although the imaginary Norwegian setting brings Wagner to mind, the composer continues the tradition of French *grand opéra* while adopting the contemporary Verdian idiom. The intensity of the action is reflected in harmonic and instrumental experiments that place Franck in the vanguard of the modernists of his time. The inventiveness of the ballet is matched only by the splendour of the choral writing. How could such a masterpiece have languished in oblivion for so long? Quite simply, because it was deliberately buried by Franck's pupils, who preferred to conserve the image of a composer of 'pure' music and to keep for themselves the glory of personifying the French operatic revival. But injustices are made to be redressed, and the team of artists placed under the dynamic direction of Gergely Madaras devotes itself to the task with exemplary conviction. The Orchestre Philharmonique Royal de Liège, connoisseur and ambassador of the music of César Franck for decades, restored the Franco-Germanic identity of this opera and the unique colours of the Belgian composer's musical language.



**CÉSAR  
FRANCK**  
1822 – 2022

**OPRL**  
Orchestre  
Philharmonique  
Royal de Liège

# CÉSAR FRANCK AND THE PALAZZETTO BRU ZANE

From November 2021 to June 2022, the Palazzetto Bru Zane has celebrated the anniversary of the Belgian composer's birth with a cycle of concerts that presented César Franck's symphonic and chamber pieces as well as his opera in Venice, Liège, Namur, Montréal and Paris. On this occasion, Franck's complete songs and duets and the complete chamber pieces were published by Bru Zane label and Fuga Libera in collaboration with the Chapelle Musicale Reine Elisabeth, following the complete vocal works with organ published in 2009 by Aeolus with the support of the Centre de musique romantique française.

## CDs



### *César Franck's Complete Songs and Duets*

Tassis Christoyannis baritone  
Véronique Gens soprano  
Jeff Cohen piano

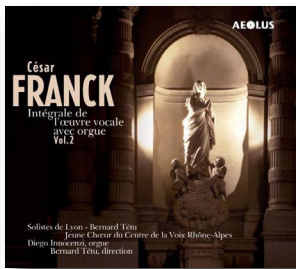
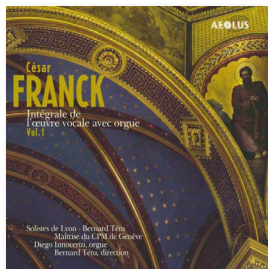
BRU ZANE LABEL  
2022



### *César Franck. Complete Chamber Music*

LES MUSICIENS DE LA CHAPELLE MUSICALE REINE ELISABETH  
FUGA LIBERA / CHAPELLE MUSICALE REINE ELISABETH /  
PALAZZETTO BRU ZANE

2022



### *Complete Vocal Works with Organ*

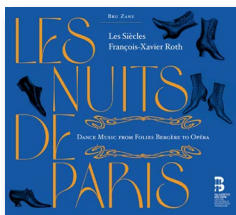
Volumes 1 and 2

Diego Innocenzi organ  
SOLISTES DE LYON  
JEUNE CHŒUR DU CENTRE DE LA VOIX RHÔNE-ALPES  
Bernard Tétu conductor

AEOLUS with the support of the PALAZZETTO BRU ZANE  
2009

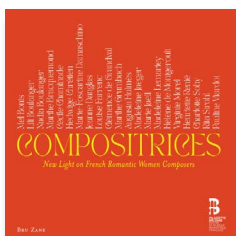
## RECENT RELEASES BRU ZANE LABEL

### CDs



### *Les Nuits de Paris Dance Music from Folies Bergères to Opéra*

LES SIÈCLES  
François-Xavier Roth conductor  
2023



### *Compositrices New Light on French Romantic Women Composers*

8 CD  
2023

### CD-BOOK



### *Gaspare Spontini La Vestale (1807)*

LES TALENS LYRIQUES  
FLEMISH RADIO CHOIR  
Christophe Rousset conductor  
2023

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More information on the French  
Romantic Music database

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