

The Palazzetto Bru Zane presents



DÉJANIRE

CAMILLE SAINT-SAËNS (1835-1921)

Tragédie lyrique in four acts. Libretto by Camille Saint-Saëns, after the tragedy by Louis Gallet. First performance at the Théâtre de Monte-Carlo, 14 March 1911.

Recorded at Auditorium Rainier III, Monaco, on 12-16 October 2022.

Éditions Durand.

World premiere recording.

Release date: 12 April 2024



Kazuki Yamada, conductor
ORCHESTRE PHILHARMONIQUE DE MONTE-CARLO
CHŒUR DE L'OPÉRA DE MONTE-CARLO
Kate Aldrich, Julien Dran, Anaïs Constans,
Jérôme Boutillier, Anna Dowsley

Essays by Vincent Giroud and Sabine Teulon Lardic,
historic text by Gabriel Fauré and period press cuttings
2 CDs / 144 pages
Texts and libretto in French and in English

Bru Zane Label

Distribution



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

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'French opera' series – Vol. 39
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'It will be a strange score: people will either not like it at all, or will like it enormously', prophesied Camille Saint-Saëns a few days before the premiere of *Déjanire*. The opera, first performed in Monte Carlo on 14 March 1911, is based on incidental music written in 1898 for the Béziers Arena. Fascinated by the subject, the composer soon wanted to give it a second, more ambitious life. He therefore conceived a mythological epic that inspired 'powerfully evocative music', according to Gabriel Fauré, who was struck by the impact of the choral writing. Yet the love drama that rends the heroine's heart engenders wildly romantic duets and culminates in the public immolation of Hercules, set ablaze by the poisoned tunic offered to him by the fallen queen. This new *Déjanire* received high praise from the critics, who flocked to Monaco to see it. But the modernist path that French opera was taking at the time did not allow the work to survive the upheavals of the First World War. It would have been a shame to prolong this unjustified ostracism any longer.



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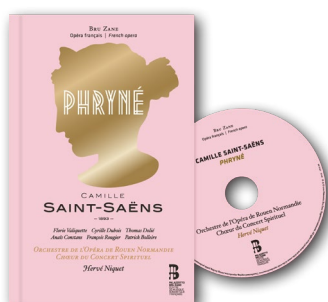


Yvonne Dubel as Iole. *Le Théâtre*, October 1st, 1912.

'I do not think it necessary, when one is speaking of Saint-Saëns, to praise the distinction and dignity of his style, the superiority of his technique, the pertinence of his expression, the interest of his orchestration. For there is scarcely a composer, in France or elsewhere, whose works can impart to us such fine and lofty lessons. Déjanire is yet another noble work to add to the catalogue of a very great artist.'

Gabriel Fauré,
The evening of the premiere

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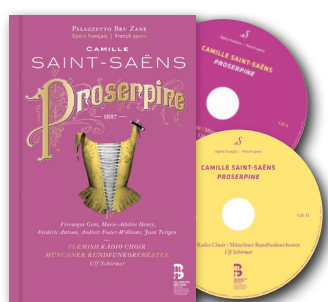
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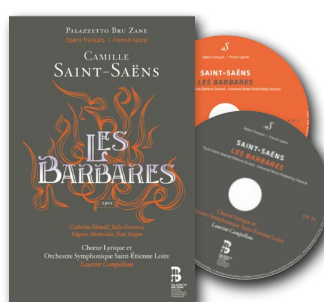
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