



LA VIE PARISIENNE

Complete original version - 1866

Jacques Offenbach (1819-1880)

Opéra-bouffe in 5 acts by Jacques Offenbach.
Libretto by Henri Meilhac and Ludovic Halévy.
First performed on 31 October 1866 at the théâtre du Palais-Royal (Paris).

Recorded from 10 to 13 January 2023 at the Halle aux Grains, Toulouse.

Score published by the Palazzetto Bru Zane.

Release date: 4 October 2024



'French opera' series – Vol. 41
BZ 1057

Romain Dumas, conductor
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Presentation texts by Alexandre Dratwicky,
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2 CD / 232 pages

Texts and libretto in French and in English

Bru Zane Label

Distribution



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'The rehearsals for *La Vie parisienne* are almost driving me insane', wrote librettist Ludovic Halévy a few days before the work's first performance. The artists of the Palais-Royal company were struggling with some of the musical numbers Offenbach had written for them. Under pressure, composer and librettists had to simplify, cut, rewrite and sometimes even abandon some of their most successful inspirations. The international success of the final score soon ensured the hundreds of pages reluctantly deleted by Offenbach were well and truly forgotten. Now the research of the Palazzetto Bru Zane team has uncovered all this musical material, making it possible to present the world premiere recording. Listeners can now enjoy a delightful Diplomatic Trio, a Seduction Quintet, a Roadsweeper's Song, an air for Urbain, the *Fabliau* of the Baroness, and more. The team of fourteen soloists assembled under the baton of Romain Dumas benefits from the glittering sonorities of the Orchestre National du Capitole de Toulouse, which previously recorded Offenbach's 'other' *Vie parisienne* back in... 1976.



Find Jacques Offenbach and La Vie parisienne on Bru Zane Mediatheque

'It is always exciting to discover the unpublished version of a masterpiece, especially when it plunges us into a bustling atmosphere... We are thus invited to discover sixteen new pieces, airs, and ensembles, where the composer continues to capture the customs of his century. Some passages are particularly delightful, such as the hilarious horde of German cobblers opposed to the Marseille glovemakers demanding *bouillabaisse*. Act III is completely transformed, while Act IV now has the merit of clarifying a somewhat shaky plot and giving the characters new depth. [...] And then, how can one resist this trio of masks and the appearance of the Commander from *Don Giovanni* in the final act?'

Julia Le Brun, Diapason, 17.11.2021
(performances in November 2021 at the Théâtre des Arts, Rouen)

'As usual with Palazzetto Bru Zane, everything is done with care. The musical seams are barely visible, the plot does not lose its humor while gaining in coherence, and nothing has been left to chance. [...] All of this contributes to the pleasure of these reunions with a work we thought we knew, which has only changed for the better.'

Sophie Bourdais, Télérama, 24.12.2021
(performances in December 2021 and January 2022 at the Théâtre des Champs-Élysées, Paris)

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BOOK IN FRENCH • ACTES SUD / PALAZZETTO BRU ZANE



Offenbach, musicien européen
 coordinated by Jean-Claude Yon,
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 and Ralf-Oliver Schwarz
 2022

The various facets of Jacques Offenbach can be discovered during the 2024-2025 season of the Palazzetto Bru Zane:

- *Stage works (Le 66! at the Opéra de Tours in October and Le Voyage dans la Lune at the Opéra de Montpellier in December);*
- *Chamber music concerts as part of the cycle Cello, the soul of Romanticism, dedicated to the composer's favorite instrument.*

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