John Nelson records Berlioz's complete *Les Troyens* with a star-studded cast including **Joyce DiDonato**, **Marie-Nicole Lemieux** and **Michael Spyres**

Hector Berlioz - *Les Troyens*
4 CDs
+ DVD: highlights from live concert
Release date: 24 November 2017

"The musical event of the year" Forum Opera

Erato release on November 24 a complete version of Berlioz's *Les Troyens,* conducted by John Nelson and featuring a magnificent cast, including Joyce DiDonato, Michael Spyres and Marie-Nicole Lemieux. The recording was made during two concert performances given in Strasbourg in April 2017.

John Nelson, an acknowledged master of Berlioz's music, made his New York City début with an uncut concert performance of *Les Troyens at* Carnegie Hall in 1973 and during the last 40 years has conducted the opera more than any other conductor.

In John Nelson's words: *"I have had the enormous privilege of recording what I consider to be the greatest French opera, with a predominately French cast, which has never been done before in all the recordings to date…"*

"Berlioz specialist John Nelson conducted the Orchestre Philharmonique de Strasbourg in the complete score – not a single note was cut – the result was a triumph"

5* Bachtrack review of concert performance, April 2017

The cast includes a number of prominent French singers including Marianne Crebassa, Stéphane Degout, Nicolas Courjal, Stanislas de Barbeyrac and Cyrille Dubois.

"It has been a gift to return to making music with John Nelson, in particular on this momentous occasion of his return to the epic journey of 'Les Troyens'. I cannot imagine creating the role of Didon with a more heartfelt, masterful baton in the lead."
- Joyce DiDonato

"It was with great emotion that we at Erato witnessed pioneering Berlioz conductor John Nelson at the podium of a transcendent Philharmonique de Strasbourg and the combined choirs of the Opéra National du Rhin, the Philharmonique de Strasbourg and the Badischer Staatsopernchor."
Alain Lanceron, president of Warner Classics & Erato

Cast list

Joyce DiDonato	*Didon*
Michael Spyres	*Enée*
Marie-Nicole Lemieux	*Cassandre*
Stéphane Degout	*Chorèbe*
Nicolas Courjal	*Narbal*
Marianne Crebassa	*Ascagne*
Hanna Hipp	*Anna*
Cyrille Dubois	*Iopas*
Stanislas de Barbeyrac	*Hélénus, Hylas*
Philippe Sly	*Panthée*
Jean Teitgen	*Ombre d'Hector, Mercure*
Bertrand Grunenwald	*Priam*
Agnieszka Sławińska	*Hécube*
Richard Rittelmann	*Capitaine Grec*
Frédéric Caton	*Soldat Troyen*

John Nelson	*Conductor*

Badischer Staatsopernchor
Choeur de l'Opéra national du Rhin
Choeur philharmonique de Strasbourg
Orchestre philharmonique de Strasbourg

John Nelson

John Nelson is recognised on the international scene as one of America's principal conductors. He studied at the Juilliard School in New York, where he received the Irving Berlin conducting prize. He has been the Musical Director of the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra, the Opera Theater of St. Louis, the Caramoor Music Festival in New York and the Chamber Orchestra of Paris. He has also been the Principal Guest Conductor of the National Orchestra of Lyon, Artistic Advisor of the orchestras of Nashville and Louisville, and is presently the Principal Guest Conductor of the National Orchestra of Costa Rica, the country in which he was born to American missionary parents.

In the course of his career he has conducted virtually all the major orchestras in the United States and Canada, including those of New York, Chicago, Philadelphia, Cleveland, Boston, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Montreal and Toronto, and also in Europe, where he has conducted all the major London orchestras, the Dresden Staatskapelle, the Leipzig Gewandhaus, the Chamber Orchestra of Europe, the Academy of St. Martin in the Fields, the Orchestre de Paris, the Oslo Philharmonic, the Czech Philharmonic, the Budapest Festival Orchestra and all the major orchestras in Spain. In Asia he has conducted the New Japan Philharmonic, the Singapore Symphony Orchestra, the Malaysian Philharmonic, the Hong Kong Philharmonic, the China Philharmonic and the orchestras of Shanghai and Guangzhou. His large repertoire has led him to the world's great opera houses, including the Metropolitan Opera, the Chicago Lyric Opera, the Bastille in Paris, the Stuttgart Opera, the Grand Théâtre in Geneva, the Netherlands Opera and the Teatro dell'Opera di Roma.

John Nelson is recognized as a great interpreter of the sacred music repertoire. In 1994 he co-founded SOLI DEO GLORIA, an organization based in Chicago that commissions works of sacred music from the world's great composers, such as Christopher Rouse, James MacMillan and Roxanna Panufnik.

Maestro Nelson's distinguished discography includes Handel's *Semele* (Grammy Award 1993), Berlioz's *Béatrice et Bénédict* (Diapason d'Or 1992) and highly acclaimed DVDs of Bach's B minor Mass and St. Matthew Passion, Haydn's *Die Schöpfung* and Beethoven's *Missa Solemnis*. He also recorded the complete Beethoven Symphonies and Piano Concertos with the Orchestre de Chambre de Paris, of which he is Honorary Musical Director.

A recent debut at Oper Frankfurt with a new production of Berlioz's *Les Troyens* was followed by concert performances of the opera with the Orchestre Philharmonique de Strasbourg, recorded for Warner Classics. John Nelson's engagements this season include the St Petersburg Philharmonic, Berlioz's *The Damnation of Faust* at the Enescu Festival in Bucharest, and a tour of Asia with London's Royal Philharmonic Orchestra.

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