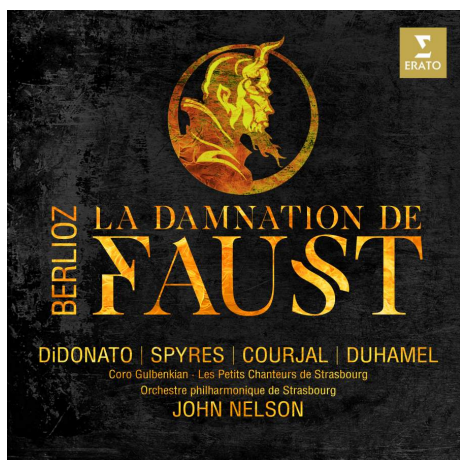


John Nelson's new recording of Berlioz's *La Damnation de Faust* released on Warners Erato



Friday 22 November

Berlioz *La Damnation de Faust*
Warners Erato

Joyce DiDonato Marguerite
Michael Spyres Faust
Nicolas Courjal Méphistophélès
Alexandre Duhamel Brander

Gulbenkian Chorus Lisbon
Orchestre Philharmonique de Strasbourg
John Nelson conductor

"As a concert, this rendition of *La Damnation de Faust* was unforgettable. As a recording session, expect it to win accolades."

Musical America

Following acclaimed performances in Strasbourg in April 2019, **Warners Erato** releases a new recording of **Berlioz's** monumental ***La Damnation de Faust*** with renowned American conductor and Berlioz expert **John Nelson**. Nelson follows the success of his multi award-winning *Les Troyens* with this new recording, released on **Friday 22 November**, reuniting **Joyce DiDonato** and **Michael Spyres** as Marguerite and Faust.

★★★★

"this album is as hot as hell"

The Times

La Damnation de Faust, based on **Goethe's** famous tale, tells the dramatic story of Faust, who falls in love with Marguerite then sells his soul to the Devil to save her. First performed at the Opéra Comique in 1846, attempts to stage the work during Berlioz's lifetime proved to be largely unsuccessful. Part opera and part cantata, the work remains unclassifiable, however, its dramatic music makes it uniquely suited to the concert stage. **Nicholas Courjal** performs Méphistophélès and **Alexandre Duhamel** takes the role of Brander.

"Nelson wove Berlioz' fantastical score miraculously and meticulously, his hands sewing an invisible thread. ... a heavenly way to mark the 150th anniversary of Berlioz' death."

Bachtrack

Nelson made his New York City debut with an uncut concert performance of Berlioz's *Les Troyens* at Carnegie Hall in 1973, and has been a foremost interpreter of the composer's music since.

Success for *Les Troyens*



Gramophone Magazine – Recording of the Year
BBC Music Magazine Awards – Opera Award
Preis der deutschen Schallplattenkritik – Opera
International Opera Awards – Best Recording (Complete Opera)
Sunday Times – Classical Recording of the Year
BBC Radio 3 Record Review – Disc of the Week

Forum Opera: *"The musical event of the year"*

The Times ★★★★★: *"Thrilling power and white-hot invention"*

The Guardian ★★★★★: *"Electrifying performances"*

Financial Times ★★★★★: *"Majestic, ambitious, extravagant"*

The Telegraph ★★★★★: *"If only Berlioz has lived to hear this"*

Berlioz's Requiem



Recorded on 8 March 2019 in **St. Paul's Cathedral, 150 years to the day** since the death of the composer, Berlioz's **Requiem (Grande Messe des Morts)** conducted by John Nelson was released on DVD and CD on **Warners Erato on Friday 20 September**. Tenor soloist **Michael Spyres** joined tremendous forces of **over 300 musicians**, comprising the **Philharmonia Orchestra** (with 10 timpanists and four brass bands) and over 200 singers from the two choirs of the **Philharmonia** and the **London Philharmonic**.

"The quiet pathos and dignity of the piece, its immensity, and its haunting moments of romantic strangeness, are all captured in this terrific performance."

The Telegraph

John Nelson



John Nelson is recognised on the international scene as one of America's most eminent 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, Guangzhou and Hangzhou. 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 Dutch National Opera and the Teatro dell'Opera di Roma.

John Nelson is recognised 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 foremost 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.

Last season, his critically-acclaimed recording of Berlioz's *Les Troyens* received the BBC Music Magazine Award for Opera and also the International Opera Award. This has been a great recognition of his work and authority as an outstanding Berlioz specialist. Following this tremendous success, John Nelson will be returning to the Strasbourg Philharmonic, for further recording projects including the *Damnation of Faust* and *Romeo & Juliet*, once again with Joyce DiDonato and Michael Spyres.

Further engagements for the 2018/19 season include Massenet's *Werther* at the Wuppertal Opera, Berlioz's *Damnation of Faust* at the Opéra de Nice, performances with Beethoven's *Missa Solemnis* in Paris' Notre Dame and in Geneva's Victoria Hall, as well as an all Berlioz programme at the Prague Spring Festival to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the composer's death.

For more information on any of the above, please contact:

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