



NEW RELEASE
SEPTEMBER 2023



BAYERISCHE
STAATSOPER
RECORDINGS

MENDELSSOHN
ELIAS
WOLFGANG
SAWALLISCH

BAYERISCHES
STAATSORCHESTER



Bayerisches Staatsorchester

FELIX MENDELSSOHN BARTHOLDY
ELIAS

Oratorio for soloists, choir and orchestra Op. 70, the words selected from the Old Testament

Elias
Soprano I, The Widow
Soprano II, The Angel
Contralto I, An Angel
Contralto II, The Queen
Tenor I, Obadiah
Tenor II, Ahab
Bass I
Bass II
The Boy, Three Angels

Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau
Margaret Price
Marianne Seibel
Brigitte Fassbaender
Cornelia Wulkopf
Peter Schreier
Heiner Hopfner
Kurt Moll
Waldemar Wild
Solisten des Tözer
Knabenchors

BAYERISCHES STAATSORCHESTER
Conductor Wolfgang Sawallisch

CHOR DES STÄDTISCHEN MUSIKVEREINS
ZU DÜSSELDORF E. V.
Chorus Master Hartmut Schmidt

CD 1 – Part I 1 – 22

CD 2 – Part II 1 – 22

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| Title | Elias |
| Composer | Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy |
| Artists | Wolfgang Sawallisch, Bayerisches Staatsorchester |
| Recording | Live Recording, National Theatre in Munich, 4 July 1984 |
| Total Playing Time | 126:16 |
| Release Date | 15.09.2023 |
| Item No. | BSOREC0003 |





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BLURB / KLAPPENTEXT

The live recording of *Elias (Elijah)* is the first historic release from the archive on the Bayerische Staatsoper Recordings label. It is historic in many respects, not only with regard to the almost four decades which have passed since 4 July 1984, but most of all because it brings together a phenomenal ensemble that shaped an entire era at the National Theatre in Munich within the genres of opera, lieder and symphonic music – thus representing something of a dream team of classical music at that time.

This performance of Felix Mendelssohn's *Elias* simultaneously opened both the 1984 Münchner Opernfestspiele (Munich Opera Festival) and the 88th German Katholikentag (Catholic Convention). Staatsoper General Manager and Chief Conductor Wolfgang Sawallisch showed remarkable astuteness: with a religious oratorio he demonstrated the stylistic versatility of the Nationaltheater-based Bayerisches Staatsorchester. Furthermore, in performing a work by a Protestant composer with a Jewish background in the context of a Roman Catholic event, he sent a widely-admired ecumenical signal. With the launch of the in-house label Bayerische Staatsoper Recordings in 2021 it has become possible to publish archival documents to showcase pivotal events from the Staatsoper's history. In that vein, this recording is now being made available for the first time ever as a testament to the exceptional musicians, the oratoric and dramatic finesse of the Bayerisches Staatsorchester and Sawallisch's flair for Mendelssohn.

SALES POINTS

- *Elias (Elijah)* is the first historical recording to be released on the Bayerische Staatsoper Recordings label, kicking off the new archival series.
- The recording brings together a top-class ensemble of singers such as Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau, Margaret Price, Brigitte Fassbaender, Peter Schreier and Kurt Moll, a long-established group of singers – in some cases for decades – at performances of the Bayerische Staatsoper.
- With this unique release of Mendelssohn's *Elijah*, the Bayerisches Staatsorchester once again demonstrates its musical versatility and excellence far beyond the opera repertoire.
- The archival release of *Elias* serves as a tribute to Wolfgang Sawallisch, the chief conductor of many years, who would have celebrated his 100th birthday in 2023.



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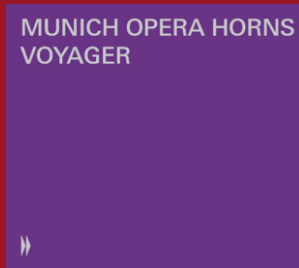


Cornelia Wulkopf, Brigitte Fassbaender, Marianne Seibel, Margaret Price, Peter Schreier, Heiner Hopfner, Kurt Moll, Waldemar Wild (center, from left to right), Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau (in front), Chorus of the Städtischer Musikverein zu Düsseldorf, Bayerisches Staatsorchester, Wolfgang Sawallisch
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Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau and Wolfgang Sawallisch during dress rehearsal on 3 July 1984
© Deutsches Theatermuseum, Archiv Sabine Toepffer

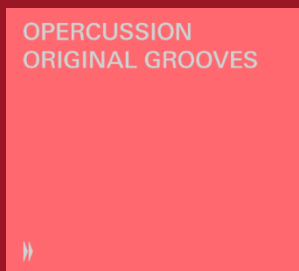
ALSO AVAILABLE
AUDIO



Munich Opera Horns: Voyager
BSOREC0006 – CD



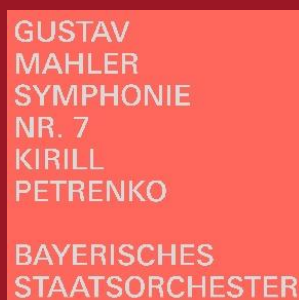
Der Mondbär
Ein Hörspiel mit Musik für Kinder ab 3 Jahren
BSOREC0005 – CD



OPERCussion: Original Grooves
BSOREC0004 – CD



Ludwig van Beethoven: Symphony No. 2
Brett Dean: Testament
BSOREC0002 – CD



Gustav Mahler: Symphony No. 7
BSOREC0001 – CD

Gramophone Award 2022 (Orchestral)
Gramophone Editor's Choice Recording of the Month 8/2021
Gramophone Recording of the Year 2021
Record Geijutsu February 2022 Readers' poll – Winner

ALSO AVAILABLE
DVD / BLU-RAY

UMBERTO GIORDANO
ANDREA CHÉNIER
JONAS KAUFMANN
ANJA HARTEROS
GEORGE PETEAN
MARCO ARMILIATO
PHILIPP STÖLZL

BAYERISCHE
STAATSOPER

Umberto Giordano: Andrea Chénier
BSOREC1004 – DVD / BSOREC2004 – Blu-ray

IGOR STRAVINSKY
PYOTR I. TCHAIKOVSKY
MAVRA / IOLANTA
ALEVTINA IOFFE
AXEL RANISCH

BAYERISCHE
STAATSOPER

Igor Stravinsky / Pyotr I. Tchaikovsky: Mavra / Iolanta
BSOREC1003 – DVD / BSOREC2003 – Blu-ray

HANS ABRAHAMSEN
THE SNOW QUEEN
BARBARA HANNIGAN
RACHAEL WILSON
KATARINA DALAYMAN
PETER ROSE
CORNELIUS MEISTER
ANDREAS
KRIEGENBURG

BAYERISCHE
STAATSOPER

Hans Abrahamsen: The Snow Queen
BSOREC1002 – DVD / BSOREC2002 – Blu-ray

Gramophone Award 2022 (Contemporary)
ICMA 2023 – Winner
PdSK Longlist 2/2022

KORNGOLD
DIE TOTE STADT
JONAS KAUFMANN
MARLIS PETERSEN
KIRILL PETRENKO
SIMON STONE

BAYERISCHE
STAATSOPER

Erich Wolfgang Korngold: Die tote Stadt
BSOREC1001 – 2 DVD Edition / BSOREC2001 – Blu-ray

Gramophone Award 2022 (Opera & Recording of the Year)
OPUS Klassik 2022 (Opera recording)
ICMA 2022 – Winner
Gramophone Editor's Choice Awards Issue 2021
CHOC de CLASSICA
ResMusica CLEF D'OR 2021
PdSK Longlist 04/2021
PRESTO Music Recordings of the Year 2021
Opera Magazine Disc of the Month 08/2021