



RAVEL

DDD

8.550424

**Rapsodie espagnole
Pavane pour une infante défunte • La Valse
Daphnis et Chloé, Suite No. 2**

**Czecho-Slovak Radio Symphony Orchestra
(Bratislava)
Kenneth Jean**



Maurice Ravel (1875 - 1937)

Rapsodie espagnole

Pavane pour une infante défunte

La Valse

Daphnis et Chloé (Suite No. 2)

The French composer Maurice Ravel inherited from his mother, of Basque origin, a strong interest in Spain, tempered by the precise attention to detail inherited from his father, a Swiss-born engineer. Spanish influence appeared in the first of his two operas, *L'heure espagnole*, in the piano piece, published in 1905 as part of *Miroirs*, *Alborada del gracioso*, in the famous *Habanera* and indeed in the very choice of title for the enormously popular *Pavane pour une infante défunte*. Later in life the ballet *tour de force Boléro* provided an opportunity for virtuosity of orchestration, with a Spanish flavour, and one of his last compositions was the setting of three *Don Quixote* songs for a film in which the Russian singer Shalyapin was to star.

The *Rapsodie espagnole* was completed in 1908 and consists of four movements, the evocative *Prélude à la nuit*, *Malagueña*, *Habanera*, based on an earlier work for piano, and *Feria*. This was Ravel's first major orchestral work, a demonstration of his originality and of his gifts as an orchestrator. The music moves from the stillness of night to two characteristic Spanish dances and a final Spanish fiesta.

The *Pavane pour une infante défunte* was originally a piano piece, written in 1899. Its title, chosen, it seems, after the piece had been written, couples a Spanish element with a nostalgia for the past very typical of the turn of the century. Ravel orchestrated the piece in 1910, when it was used for a ballet.

The *poème choréographique La Valse* was written in response to a commission from *Sergey Dyagilev*, who rejected the work. Completed in 1920,

it was eventually used in the theatre in 1929 by Ida Rubinstein's company, with choreography by Nijinsky's sister and designs by Benois. Coming as it does after the final dissolution of the Habsburg Empire, *La Valse* seems again to suggest a vanished world, the mysterious evocation of an epoch that was gone, a masque in the imagination of an Edgar Allan Poe.

The symphonie chorégraphique *Daphnis et Chloé* is based on the Hellenistic novel by Longus, a Greco-Roman writer about whom nothing is known. His pastoral romance, set on the island of Lesbos, deals with the love, forced parting and final happiness of the shepherd Daphnis and the shepherdess Chloë, abducted by pirates, but eventually united again with Daphnis, their union a subject of general rejoicing, under the inspiration of the shepherd god Pan. Ravel drew two orchestral suites from the original score, the second of them in 1912, the year in which Dyagilev's *Ballets russes* performed the work at the Théâtre du Châtelet in Paris, with designs by Bakst, choreography by Fokin and the two title rôles danced by Karsavina and Nijinsky. The scandal surrounding the latter's performance in his ballet using Debussy's pastoral *L'après-midi d'un faune* overshadowed Ravel's ballet, which lacked the necessary ingredients of a succès de scandale, while celebrating again a long-vanished world, evoked in vivid and moving orchestral colours, subtly enhanced by the use of an added chorus.

Czecho-Slovak Radio Symphony Orchestra (Bratislava)

The Slovak Radio Symphony Orchestra (Bratislava), the oldest symphonic ensemble in Slovakia, was founded in 1929. The orchestra's first conductor was František Dyk and over the past sixty years it has worked under the batons of several prominent Czech and Slovak conductors.

The orchestra has made many recordings for NAXOS ranging from the ballet music of Tchaikovsky to more modern works by composers such as Copland, Britten & Prokofiev. For Marco Polo the orchestra has recorded works by Glazunov, Glière, Rubinstein and other post-romantic composers.

Kenneth Jean

Associate Conductor of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and Music Director of the Florida Symphony Orchestra, Kenneth Jean is a young conductor making his presence known both nationally and internationally. Born in New York City, he grew up in Hong Kong and returned to the United States in 1967 to live in San Francisco. After violin studies at San Francisco State University, he entered the Juilliard School at the age of 19 and was accepted into the conducting class of Jean Morel. The following year, he made his Carnegie Hall debut with the Youth Symphony Orchestra of New York and was immediately engaged as the orchestra's Music Director.

From 1979 until 1985 Kenneth Jean served as Resident Conductor of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra. Previously, he was the Conducting Assistant of the Cleveland Orchestra for two seasons.

He has recorded works by Mendelssohn, Tchaikovsky, Beethoven, Falla, Albéniz and Ravel for Naxos, and Chinese contemporary works for HK.

8.550424

STEREO

DDD

Playing
Time :
52'07"

RAVEL

Rapsodie espagnole

Pavane pour une infante défunte • La Valse Daphnis et Chloé Suite No. 2

Czecho-Slovak Radio Symphony Orchestra
(Bratislava)
Kenneth Jean

Rapsodie espagnole

- | | | |
|----------|--|----------------|
| 1 | Prélude à la nuit | (4:08) |
| 2 | Malagueña | (2:12) |
| 3 | Habanera | (2:49) |
| 4 | Feria | (6:29) |
| 5 | Pavane pour une infante défunte | (6:17) |
| 6 | La Valse | (13:06) |
| 7 | Daphnis et Chloé, Suite No. 2 | (16:28) |
| | Lever du jour | |
| | Pantomime | |
| | Danse générale | |

Recorded at the Concert Hall of the Czecho-Slovak
Radio in Bratislava in September 1988 (Nos. 1-4)
and in June 1990 (Nos. 5-7)

Producer: Martin Sauer
Music Notes: Keith Anderson

Cover: Mademoiselle Victorine in the Costume
of an Espada (Painting by Edouard Manet)

8.550424

RAVEL: Rapsodie espagnole • La Valse • Daphnis

NAXOS



8.550424

STEREO

DDD

Playing
Time :
52'07"

RAVEL

Rapsodie espagnole

Pavane pour une infante défunte • La Valse
Daphnis et Chloé Suite No. 2Czecho-Slovak Radio Symphony Orchestra
(Bratislava)
Kenneth Jean

Rapsodie espagnole

- | | | |
|---|---------------------------------|---------|
| 1 | Prélude à la nuit | (4:08) |
| 2 | Malagueña | (2:12) |
| 3 | Habanera | (2:49) |
| 4 | Feria | (6:29) |
| 5 | Pavane pour une infante défunte | (6:17) |
| 6 | La Valse | (13:06) |
| 7 | Daphnis et Chloé, Suite No. 2 | (16:28) |
| | Lever du jour | |
| | Pantomime | |
| | Danse générale | |

Recorded at the Concert Hall of the Czecho-Slovak
Radio in Bratislava in September 1988 (Nos. 1-4)
and in June 1990 (Nos. 5-7)
Producer: Martin Sauer
Music Notes: Keith Anderson

Cover: Mademoiselle Victorine in the Costume
of an Espada (Painting by Edouard Manet)



4 891030 504240

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. UNAUTHORISED PUBLIC PERFORMANCE,
BROADCASTING AND COPYING OF THIS COMPACT DISC PROHIBITED.
© 1990 HNH International Ltd.
© 1991 HNH International Ltd.
DISTRIBUTED BY: MVD MUSIC AND VIDEO DISTRIBUTION GMBH,
OBERWEG 21C-HALLE V, D-82008 UNTERHACHING, MUNICH GERMANY.



NAXOS

RAVEL: Rapsodie espagnole • La Valse • Daphnis

8.550424