

**BARTÓK: The Miraculous Mandarin**

Compatible with existing CD players, this SACD contains three separate versions of the same programme: 5.1 multichannel surround sound mastered in DSD • 2-channel stereo mastered in DSD • CD standard stereo

Bartók's "pantomime in one act" *The Miraculous Mandarin* caused such an uproar at its première in Cologne in 1926 that it was banned immediately and not seen again in the composer's lifetime. It tells the story of three thugs who use a beautiful prostitute to ensnare a succession of men, whom they then brutally rob. Bartók's score reflects the menace and melodrama of the story; he himself described the music as "hellish".

Béla  
**BARTÓK**  
(1881-1945)

<b>The Miraculous Mandarin, Sz73 (Op. 19):</b>		<b>10</b> The terrified tramps discuss how they are to get rid of the Mandarin	1:56
Pantomime in One Act (1926) 32:52		<b>11</b> The body of the Mandarin begins to glow with a greenish blue light*	1:52
<b>1</b> Opening – The girl and three tramps	3:18	<b>12</b> She resists no longer – they embrace	2:04
<b>2</b> First seduction game: the shabby old rake	3:41	<b>Dance Suite, Sz77 (1923) 17:33</b>	
<b>3</b> Second seduction game: the young student	3:10	<b>13</b> I. Moderato	3:55
<b>4</b> Third seduction game	1:39	<b>14</b> II. Allegro molto	2:21
<b>5</b> The Mandarin enters and remains immobile in the doorway	2:31	<b>15</b> III. Allegro vivace	3:10
<b>6</b> The girl begins a hesitant dance...	5:48	<b>16</b> IV. Molto tranquillo	2:52
<b>7</b> The Mandarin stumbles – the chase becomes even more passionate	0:41	<b>17</b> V. Comodo - Finale	5:16
<b>8</b> The three tramps leap out, seize the Mandarin and tear him away from the girl	2:52	<b>Hungarian Pictures, Sz97 (1931) 11:47</b>	
<b>9</b> Suddenly the Mandarin's head appears between the pillows and he looks longingly at the girl	3:20	<b>18</b> I. An evening in the village	3:04
		<b>19</b> II. Bear dance	1:47
		<b>20</b> III. Melody	2:08
		<b>21</b> IV. Slightly Tipsy	2:26
		<b>22</b> V. Swineherd's Dance	2:21

**Bournemouth Symphony Chorus\* and Orchestra • Marin Alsop**

To hear Marin Alsop introduce Bartok's *The Miraculous Mandarin*, go to [naxos.com/alsop/mandarin](http://naxos.com/alsop/mandarin)

Recorded on 19th and 20th July 2004, at The Concert Hall, Lighthouse, Poole, England.

Producer: Andrew Walton (K&A Productions Ltd.) • Sound Engineer: Mike Clements

Post-Production: Andrew Walton • Booklet Notes: Richard Whitehouse

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Cover image: *Backdrop for Scene II of The Miraculous Mandarin, production designed by Enrico Prampolini for La Scala, Milan, c.1930* (The Art Archive / Private Collection / Marc Charnet)

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Playing Time  
62:12

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