

NAXOS

BARTÓK: The Miraculous Mandarin

8.557433

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)

The Miraculous Mandarin (Complete Ballet)

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

Bournemouth Symphony Chorus* and Orchestra • Marin Alsop

To hear Marin Alsop introduce Bartók's *The Miraculous Mandarin*, go to naxos.com/alsop/mandarin

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