

NAXOS

STRAVINSKY: Three Greek Ballets

8.557502

Stravinsky's three 'Greek' ballets span thirty years of his creative career. *Apollo*, a 1947 revision of *Apollon musagète* (1928), is Stravinsky's homage to the Greek concept of the unity of music, dance, painting, and poetry. It was described by Dyagilev as 'an amazing work, extraordinarily calm and with greater clarity than anything he has done... music not of this world, but from somewhere above...'. Begun in 1953, when Stravinsky was turning towards serialism, the plotless *Agon* can be viewed as a contest (from the Greek *agon*) between traditional and modern compositional techniques. *Orpheus* (1948) mines a vein of lyricism hitherto absent in Stravinsky's art and is the only score after *Firebird* in which the term '*espressivo*' occurs frequently. The music is descriptive, pictorial, rich in musical symbols and in the matching of musical imagery with stage action.

Igor
STRAVINSKY
(1882-1971)

Three Greek Ballets

1-10	Apollo [†]	25:12
11-26	Agon [*]	20:56
	Orpheus [†]	28:31
27-30	Scene I	9:15
31-38	Scene II	16:39
39	Scene III	2:37

London Symphony Orchestra[†] • **Orchestra of St Luke's**^{*} • **Robert Craft**

A full track listing can be found on page 2 of the booklet

Apollo: Recorded at Abbey Road Studio One, London, England, from 1st to 4th July, 1995
Producer: Michael Fine • Engineer: Simon Rhodes

Agon: Recorded at SUNY, Purchase, New York, in 1992
Producer and engineer: Gregory K. Squires • Editor: Richard Price

Orpheus: Recorded at Abbey Road Studio One, London, England, from 3rd to 5th and 8th January, 1995
Producer: Michael Fine • Engineer: Simon Rhodes

Mastered by Richard Price, Squires Productions Inc.

Publishers: Boosey & Hawkes Music Publishers Ltd. • Booklet Notes: Robert Craft

These recordings were previously released on MusicMasters (**Agon**)
and Koch International Classics (**Apollo** and **Orpheus**)

Cover Picture: *The Lamentation of Orpheus* by Alexandre Seon (1855-1917)
(Musée d'Orsay, Paris, France / Peter Willi / www.bridgeman.co.uk)

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Playing Time
77:45

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