

*The Wooden Prince* is a fairy tale ballet with an original story by Bartók's literary acquaintance Béla Balázs, who had also written the libretto to *Bluebeard's Castle* (available on Naxos 8.660928). Though outwardly sunny in its subject matter, *The Wooden Prince* has a mystical side that may explain Bartók's attraction to the story. The ballet's opening pages have often been compared to the opening of Wagner's *Das Rheingold*, and the majestic heart of the score lies in the glorious music Bartók wrote to accompany the prince's apotheosis.



Béla  
**BARTÓK**  
(1881-1945)

**The Wooden Prince**  
(A Dancing-Play in One Act)

- |  |      |   |      |
|--|------|---|------|
| 1 Opening: <i>Molto moderato</i>                                     | 4:19 | 9 The Prince is in Despair –<br>The Fairy Comforts Him                                | 5:18 |
| 2 First Dance: Dance of the Princess<br>in the Forest                | 2:46 | 10 Great Apotheosis   | 3:26 |
| 3 The Prince Meets the Fairy and<br>Sees the Princess                | 2:25 | 11 Fifth Dance: The Princess Prods and<br>Encourages the Wooden Prince to Dance       | 2:57 |
| 4 Second Dance: Dance of the Trees                                   | 5:07 | 12 Sixth Dance: With an Alluring Dance, the<br>Princess Tries to Appeal to the Prince | 1:39 |
| 5 The Fairy Enchants the Stream –<br>Third Dance: Dance of the Waves | 4:11 | 13 Seventh Dance: Alarmed, the Princess<br>Hurries After the Prince, But the Forest   | 5:00 |
| 6 The Prince Builds a Wooden Prince                                  | 4:29 | Keeps Her Back  | 5:00 |
| 7 The Princess Spies the Wooden Prince                               | 2:22 | 14 The Prince and Princess Embrace –<br>Long Kiss – Slow curtain                      | 3:56 |
| 8 Fourth Dance: Dance of the Princess<br>with the Wooden Prince      | 5:44 |   |      |

**Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra (Leader: Duncan Riddell)**  
**Marin Alsop**

Supported by BSO Endowment Trust

Recorded in The Concert Hall, Lighthouse, Poole, UK, on 9th and 10th May, 2007

Producer and editor: Andrew Walton (K&A Productions Ltd.) • Sound engineer: Phil Rowlands

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Cover: Set design for the première of Béla Bartók's *The Wooden Prince*  
(Private Collection / Archives Charmet / The Bridgeman Art Library)



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8.570534

Playing Time  
53:38



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