

A modern version of the old European folk-tale about the cruel, blue-bearded prince and his many disappearing wives, Bartók's opera *Bluebeard's Castle* is a metaphor for the impossibility of complete love between a man and a woman. A vast orchestra, one of Bartók's largest, supports the vocal lines, moving deftly from moments of chamber-music-like delicacy to massive thunderheads of sound that underline the characters' inner agony. No scene is more vividly portrayed, though, or more memorable, than the moment when Judith opens the fifth door to behold a vista looking out over all Bluebeard's domains. One of the most spine-tingling moments in twentieth-century opera, a violently dissonant wave of sound transforms, in an instant, to a massive C major chord in the full orchestra.

This recording was made after the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra's end-of-season concert, described by *The Times* as 'a spectacular finale... A knockout dramatic punch; feverishly beautiful orchestral playing; two characters, the Duke and his new wife Judith, tactile and writhing, deeply felt... Also inspired the Bournemouth players to excel'.



Béla
BARTÓK
(1881-1945)

Bluebeard's Castle

(Opera in One Act - Libretto by Béla Balázs)
Sung in Hungarian

Duke Bluebeard Gustáv Beláček, Bass
Judith Andrea Meláth, Mezzo-soprano

Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra
Marin Alsop

Supported by BSO Endowment Trust

A detailed track list can be found on page 3 of the booklet
Recorded in The Concert Hall, Lighthouse, Poole, UK, on 17th and 18th May, 2007
Producer and editor: Andrew Walton (K&A Productions Ltd.) • Sound engineer: Phil Rowlands

Booklet notes: Carl Leafstedt and Cris Posslac

Cover: Unused stage design by Wilhelm Matenaar, Berlin, 1984,
for Béla Bartók's *Bluebeard's Castle* (akg-images)



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8.660928

Playing Time
57:45



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