

Hector Berlioz Benvenuto Cellini

Opera in two acts

Libretto by Léon de Wailly and Henri Auguste Barbier

'A mix of futurism à la *Metropolis*, fantasy à la *Batman* and quotes from Piranesi's *Carceri*, juxtaposed in the form of photo montages, enhanced with ... robots, a helicopter, a shark and the winged vehicle of a pop star Pope', was how the *Neue Zürcher Zeitung* described this astonishing Salzburg Festival production of Berlioz's *Benvenuto Cellini*. The high-calibre cast, headed by Burkhard Fritz as the temperamental Renaissance artist and the 26-year-old Latvian soprano Maija Kovalevska as Teresa, the woman with whom he tries to elope, is conducted by Valery Gergiev who 'pulled out all the stops. He whips the Vienna Philharmonic into a delirium similar to that which possibly took hold of the composer'. (*Der Standard*) This is French grand opera at its fast-paced and spectacularly-staged best.

Benvenuto Cellini Burkhard Fritz
Teresa Maija Kovalevska
Fieramosca Laurent Naouri
Giacomo Balducci Brindley Sherratt
Pope Clemens VII Mikhail Petrenko
Ascanio Kate Aldrich

Wiener Philharmoniker

Konzertvereinigung Wiener Staatsopernchor

Conductor: Valery Gergiev

Chorus Master: Andreas Schüller

Stage Director & Stage Designer: Philipp Stölzl

Filed at the Großes Festspielhaus, Salzburg, Austria, 5, 10 & 15 August 2007,
 as part of the 2007 Salzburg Festival

Video Director: Andreas Morell

Sung in French • Subtitles in French and English

A production of UNITEL

in co-production with ZDF/3sat and Classica

in co-operation with the Salzburg Festival

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Total Running Time: 163:35

NTSC: No Region Coding • Aspect Ratio: 16:9

Dual Layer Disc • Dolby Digital 2.0 Stereo • Dolby Surround 5.0

DTS 5.0 audio stream • Booklet design: Ron Hoares

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