

Charles Gounod was enchanted by the young Provençal-born Frédéric Mistral's epic love poem *Mirèio*, and enlisted the distinguished Michel Carré to fashion a libretto. Against the grain of prevailing operatic practice in the 1860s, and its promotion of glamour and spectacle, Gounod relished instead the lives of modest country people and their idyllic world. He utilises folk dances and a shepherd's lament to chart the story of his tragic heroine whose desire to marry her true love ends in her death. 'Everything feels true to the opera's pastoral spirit' wrote Gramophone about this production, which marked the opera's first appearance at the Paris Opera.

CHARLES GOUNOD (1818–1893)

MIREILLE

Opera in five acts and seven tableaux (1864)

Libretto by Michel Carré (1821–1872)

after the poem *Mirèio* by Frédéric Mistral (1830–1914)

Mireille

Vincent

Ourrias

Maître Ramon

Taven

Vincenette

Andreloun

Maître Ambroise

Clémence

Le Passeur

Inva Mula

Charles Castronovo

Franck Ferrari

Alain Vernhes

Sylvie Brunet

Anne-Catherine Gillet

Sébastien Droy

Nicolas Cavallier

Amel-Brahim Djelloul

Ugo Rabec

Orchestre de l'Opéra national de Paris

Conductor **Marc Minkowski**

Chœur de l'Opéra national de Paris

Chorus Master **Patrick Marie Aubert**

Stage Director **Nicolas Joel**

Set Designer **Ezio Frigerio**

Costume Designer **Franca Squarciapino**

Lighting Designer **Vinicio Cheli**

Choreographer **Patrick Ségot**

Filmed on 11, 12 and 14 September 2009 at the Opéra national de Paris, Palais Garnier, Paris, France

Film Director **François Roussillon**

A co-production by the Opéra national de Paris and François Roussillon et Associés,

with the participation of France télévisions, and with the support of the

Centre national du cinéma et de l'image animée

In memory of Nicolas Joel (1953–2020) and Franck Ferrari (1963–2015)



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MIREILLE

Gounod