

Meyerbeer, long considered one of the greatest of operatic composers, is being rediscovered. His first music drama was *Jephtha Gelübde*, based on the biblical story of Jephtha and his rash vow of sacrifice. The musical language is varied in expression, with an exceptionally advanced use of leitmotif and a subtle depiction of psychological process, all revealing a powerful command of material. Marches and dances of radically different moods, allied to choruses of folk-like simplicity and grandiose power, are part of a mature score in which intense monologues and gripping ensembles embody music of lyricism, drama and rapture.

Giacomo
MEYERBEER
 (1791–1864)

Jephtha Gelübde (1812)
 Serious opera in three acts with ballet
 Libretto by Aloys Wilhelm Schreiber (1761–1841)
 WORLD PREMIERE RECORDING

Jephtha	Sönke Tams Freier, Bass-baritone
Sulima	Andrea Chudak, Soprano
Tirza	Ziazan, Mezzo-soprano
Asmavett	Marcus Elsäßer, Tenor
Abdon	Laurence Kalaidjian, Baritone
A Tribal Leader	Ivaylo Yanev, Narrator
A Childhood Friend	Caroline Bruker, Narrator

Sofia Philharmonic Orchestra and Chorus • Dario Salvi

CD 1 ①–⑯ Overture, Acts I and II 79:57 **CD 2 ①–⑯ Acts II (cont'd) and III** 77:11

A detailed track and cast list can be found inside the booklet.

The German libretto and an English translation may be accessed at www.naxos.com/libretti/225383.htm

Recorded: 1–4 July 2019 at Bulgaria Hall, Sofia, Bulgaria

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Cover: *Jephtha makes a sacrifice of his daughter according to his rash vow.*

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Playing Time
 2:37:06



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