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The origins of the immensely prolific Czechoslovakian composer Bohuslav Martinů are readily audible in his music, although the influences of jazz and his French training are also apparent. In *The Epic of Gilgamesh*, written in France in 1955, Martinů took his inspiration from a Babylonian epic, whose subject is the nature of love and death. The work is one of his most successful, portraying the varied emotions of the scenario succinctly and dramatically. It stands as powerful testimony to Martinů's genius as one of the twentieth century's finest composers.

Bohuslav
MARTINŮ
(1890-1959)

The Epic of Gilgamesh

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|----------------|-------------------------------------|--------------|
| 1 - 10 | Part I: Gilgamesh | 18:37 |
| 11 - 19 | Part II: The Death of Enkidu | 18:45 |
| 20 - 29 | Part III: Invocation | 18:09 |

Gilgamesh: Ivan Kusnjer, Baritone • Enkidu: Štefan Margita, Tenor
The Spirit of Enkidu: Ludek Vele, Bass • Woman: Eva Depoltová, Soprano
The Hunter: Štefan Margita, Tenor • Résonneur: Ludek Vele, Bass
Spoken Word: Milan Karpišek
Slovak Philharmonic Choir (Chorus Master: Pavel Procházka)
Slovak Philharmonic Orchestra • Zdeněk Košler

Recorded in the Concert Hall of the Slovak Philharmonic, Bratislava, from 23rd to 24th November, 1989
Producers: Karol Kopernický & Hubert Geschwandtner • Music Notes: Keith Anderson
Cover Image: *Babylonian sculpted head* from British Museum, London (Bridgeman Art Library)

NAXOS

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Playing Time
55:31



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