

The essence of Busoni's music lies in its synthesis of his Italian and German ancestry: emotion and intellect, the imaginative and the systematic. Neither inherently conservative nor aggressively radical, his harmonic and tonal innovations were part of an essentially re-creative approach to the musical past, which has only gained wider currency more recently. His *Turandot Suite* was composed as a response to reading the play of the same name by the eighteenth-century Venetian dramatist Carlo Gozzi. Although Busoni's music is restricted to scene changes and those places where it is dramatically relevant, the comic and fantastic essence of Gozzi's play is readily conveyed. The *Sarabande* and *Cortège* were intended as preliminary studies for several of the most important scenes in Busoni's unfinished opera, *Doktor Faust*. The *Sarabande* evokes the mystery and magic that pervades the opera. The *Cortège*, by contrast, is music of devilish swiftness and energy. The *Berceuse élégiaque* is Busoni's most perfectly realised musical vision. So powerful is the orchestration that even such a master of the orchestra as Richard Strauss found the result spellbinding.

Ferruccio
BUSONI
(1866-1924)

Turandot Suite, Op. 41

- | | | |
|---|---|-------|
| ① | Scene 1: The Execution, the City Gate and the Departure | 40:36 |
| ② | Scene 2: Truffaldino's March | 3:35 |
| ③ | Scene 3: Altoum's March | 2:57 |
| ④ | Scene 4: Turandot's March | 5:28 |
| ⑤ | Scene 5: Turandot's Chamber | 10:10 |
| ⑥ | Scenes 5/6: Dance and Song | 2:39 |
| ⑦ | Scene 7: Night Waltz | 5:16 |
| ⑧ | Scene 8: Quasi-Funeral March and Finale alla Turca | 4:12 |
| | Two Studies for "Doktor Faust", Op. 51 | 6:20 |
| ⑨ | <i>Sarabande</i> | 18:58 |
| ⑩ | <i>Cortège</i> | 10:28 |
| ⑪ | <i>Berceuse élégiaque, Op. 42</i> | 8:30 |
| | | 11:16 |

Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra • Samuel Wong

Recorded at Tsuen Wan Town Hall, Hong Kong, from 22nd to 23rd January, 2001
 Producer: Blanton Alsbaugh (Soundmirror) • Engineer: John Newton (Soundmirror)
 Assistant Engineers: Byeong Joon Hwang and Sang Wook Nam (Soundmirror / Korea)
 Booklet Notes: Richard Whitehouse • Cover Picture: *Procession of a Mandarin* (1901) (AKG London)



DDD

8.555373

Playing Time
70:50



www.naxos.com

Made in E.C.

Booklet notes in English •

Notice en français • Kommentar auf Deutsch

© 2001 & © 2002 HNH International Ltd.