

Apart from the operas, Berlioz wrote a large number of vocal works. Between 1827 and 1830, he attempted the coveted *Prix de Rome* on four occasions, winning at his final attempt. This prize, established for musicians by Napoleon, brought with it a stay of two years in Rome at the Villa Medici, and was a significant honour for any ambitious young composer. The four now little-known *Prix de Rome* Cantatas, including the fascinating *Herminie* whose introduction was later to become the *idée fixe* of the *Symphonie fantastique* are brought together on this recording in the year of the bicentenary celebrations of Berlioz's birth.

Hector BERLIOZ (1803-1869)

- | | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|-------|
| 1 | Herminie (1828) | 21:06 |
| Lyrical scene for soprano and orchestra | | |
| Words by Pierre-Ange Vieillard | | |
| 2 | La Mort de Cléopâtre (1829) | 20:46 |
| Lyrical scene for soprano and orchestra. | | |
| Words by Pierre-Ange Vieillard | | |
| 3 | La Mort de Sardanapale (1830) | 5:51 |
| Cantata for tenor, male chorus and orchestra | | |
| Words by Jean-Baptiste Gail | | |
| 4 | La Mort d'Orphée (1827) | 13:01 |
| Monologue and Bacchanale for tenor, female chorus and orchestra | | |
| Words by Henri Berton | | |

Michèle Lagrange, Soprano (1)
 Béatrice Uria-Monzon, Mezzo-Soprano (2)
 Daniel Galvez Vallejo, Tenor (3, 4)
 Chœur Régional Nord/Pas-de-Calais

Orchestre National de Lille, Région Nord/Pas-de-Calais • Jean-Claude Casadesus

Recorded at the Nouveau Siècle, Lille
 19th-21th October 1994 (1, 2), 28th-29th November 1995 (3, 4)
 Producer and Engineer: Jean-Martial Golaz • Booklet Notes: Keith Anderson
 Cover Image: *The Death of Orpheus* (c.1770) by Thomas Jones (1742-1803) and
 John Hamilton Mortimer (1741-79)
 Bridgeman Art Library / Yale Center for British Art, Paul Mellon Collection, USA

8.555810

Playing Time
60:45



www.naxos.com

© 2003 & © 2003 HNH International Ltd.
 Booklet notes in English • Kommentar auf Deutsch
 Sung texts and translations included
 Made in Canada

NAXOS

DDD

BERLIOZ: Cantatas

8.555810