

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)

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

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

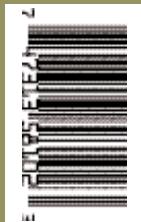
Recorded at the Nouveau Siècle, Lille
19th-21th October 1994 (1, 2), 28th-29th November 1995 (3, 4)
Producer and Engineer: Jean-Martial Golaz • Booklet Notes: Keith Anderson
Cover Image: *The Death of Orpheus* (c.1770) by Thomas Jones (1742-1803) and
John Hamilton Mortimer (1741-79)
Bridgeman Art Library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



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8.555810

Playing Time
60:45



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