

Rappaccini's Daughter and *Obsidian Butterfly* were inspired by the mystic and ritualistic poetry of Daniel Catán's Mexican compatriot, Octavio Paz. The composer himself has written, 'I have inherited a very rich operatic tradition. In my work, I am proud to say, one can detect the enormous debt I owe to composers from Monteverdi to Alban Berg. But, perhaps, the greatest of my debts is having learnt that the originality of an opera need not involve the rejection of our tradition, but rather the profound assimilation of it, so as to achieve the closest union between a text and its music'. Often described as neo-impressionist, Catán's music is richly lyrical with soaring orchestral motifs. He uses the orchestral palette to paint evocative colours, with an often delicate use of percussion.

Daniel CATÁN

(b.1949)

WORLD PREMIERE
RECORDINGS

Rappaccini's Daughter (Highlights) (1988)*

43:39

- | | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|-------|
| 1 | Beatriz's Aria from Act I | 4:22 |
| 2 | Giovanni's Recitative and Aria | 5:18 |
| 3 | Interlude: Transition to the garden | 1:07 |
| 4 | Rappaccini's Aria from Act I | 4:03 |
| 5 | Love Duet | 13:03 |
| 6 | Rappaccini's Aria from Act II | 2:06 |
| 7 | Interlude | 1:51 |
| 8 | Beatriz's final Aria | 2:33 |
| 9 | Postlude | 5:10 |

10 Obsidian Butterfly (1984)* for Soprano, Chorus and Orchestra

20:14

11 Final Chorus

5:43

Encarnación Vázquez^{†‡} • Fernando de la Mora[†] • Jesús Suaste[†]
Mexico City Philharmonic Orchestra • Eduardo Díazmuñoz
Convivium Musicum Chorus[‡]

Recorded in Mexico City in October 1991 • Artistic Director: Daniel Catán
Director of production: Ricardo Calderón • Producer: Ana Lara • Engineer: Humberto Terán
Post-production: Gerardo Macín • Music Notes: Daniel Catán and Alberto Ruy Sánchez
Libretto for *Rappaccini's Daughter* by Juan Tovar, based on the work by Octavio Paz. Translated into English by Daniel Catán and Roberto Tejada. *Obsidian Butterfly* from *Selected Poems* by Octavio Paz, translated by Octavio Paz and Eliot Weinberger, by kind permission of New Directions Publishing
Cover Image: *Backdrop for Act II of Parsifal* by Max Bruckner (Wagner Museum, Bayreuth/The Art Archive)

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8.557034

Playing Time
66:01



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