

Bartók's "pantomime in one act" *The Miraculous Mandarin* caused such an uproar at its première in Cologne in 1926 that it was banned immediately and not seen again in the composer's lifetime. It tells the story of three thugs who use a beautiful prostitute to ensnare a succession of men, whom they then brutally rob. Bartók's score reflects the menace and melodrama of the story; he himself described the music as "hellish".

Béla  
**BARTÓK**  
(1881-1945)

## The Miraculous Mandarin (Complete Ballet)

The Miraculous Mandarin, Sz73 (Op. 19):  
Pantomime in One Act (1926) 32:52

- 1 Opening – The girl and three tramps 3:18
- 2 First seduction game:  
the shabby old rake 3:41
- 3 Second seduction game:  
the young student 3:10
- 4 Third seduction game 1:39
- 5 The Mandarin enters and remains  
immobile in the doorway 2:31
- 6 The girl begins a hesitant dance... 5:48
- 7 The Mandarin stumbles – the chase  
becomes even more passionate 0:41
- 8 The three tramps leap out, seize the  
Mandarin and tear him away from  
the girl 2:52
- 9 Suddenly the Mandarin's head  
appears between the pillows  
and he looks longingly at the girl 3:20

- 10 The terrified tramps discuss how they  
are to get rid of the Mandarin 1:56
- 11 The body of the Mandarin begins to  
glow with a greenish blue light\* 1:52
- 12 She resists no longer – they embrace 2:04
- Dance Suite, Sz77 (1923) 17:33
- 13 I. Moderato 3:55
- 14 II. Allegro molto 2:21
- 15 III. Allegro vivace 3:10
- 16 IV. Molto tranquillo 2:52
- 17 V. Comodo - Finale 5:16
- Hungarian Pictures, Sz97 (1931) 11:47
- 18 I. An evening in the village 3:04
- 19 II. Bear dance 1:47
- 20 III. Melody 2:08
- 21 IV. Slightly Tipsy 2:26
- 22 V. Swineherd's Dance 2:21

## Bournemouth Symphony Chorus\* and Orchestra • Marin Alsop

To hear Marin Alsop introduce Bartók's *The Miraculous Mandarin*, go to [naxos.com/alsop/mandarin](http://naxos.com/alsop/mandarin)

Recorded on 19th and 20th July 2004, at The Concert Hall, Lighthouse, Poole, England.

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Post-Production: Andrew Walton • Booklet Notes: Richard Whitehouse

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Playing Time  
62:12



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