

*Oedipus Rex*, based on Sophocles' tragedy, is an established twentieth-century classic. Employing a speaker, male chorus and orchestra, it represents Stravinsky's 1920s neo-classicism at its peak. *Les Noces*, an amalgam of ballet and dance cantata in four scenes for solo voices, chorus, four pianos and seventeen percussion instruments, depicts a Russian peasant wedding. One of only two theatrical works by Stravinsky to combine music with a text in his mother tongue, *Les Noces* is also his most Russian work, in which ritual, symbol and meaning on every level are part of his direct cultural heredity.

Igor  
**STRAVINSKY**  
(1882-1971)

<b>Oedipus Rex*</b>	<b>52:21</b>	<b>Les Noces†</b>	<b>24:10</b>
<b>1 Prologue</b>	<b>7:51</b>	<b>7 Scene One</b>	<b>5:11</b>
<b>2 Introducing Creon</b>	<b>7:48</b>	<b>8 Scene Two</b>	<b>5:40</b>
<b>3 Introducing Tiresias</b>	<b>9:56</b>	<b>9 Scene Three</b>	<b>3:02</b>
<b>4 Introducing Jocasta</b>	<b>11:04</b>	<b>10 Scene Four</b>	<b>10:16</b>
<b>5 Introducing the Messenger</b>	<b>9:05</b>		
<b>6 Epilogue</b>	<b>6:38</b>		

Edward Fox, Speaker\* • Alison Wells, Soprano† • Susan Bickley, Mezzo-soprano†  
Jennifer Lane, Mezzo-soprano\* • Martyn Hill, Tenor • Joseph Cornwell, Tenor\*  
David Wilson-Johnson, Bass-baritone\* • Andrew Greenan, Bass\*  
Alan Ewing, Basso-profundo† • Simon Joly Male Chorus\* • Simon Joly Chorale†  
International Piano Quartet† • Tristan Fry Percussion Ensemble†  
Philharmonia Orchestra\* • Robert Craft

Recorded at Abbey Road Studio One, London, England,  
on January 8th and 9th 2001 (*Les Noces*) and in June 2001 (*Oedipus Rex*)

Producer: Gregory K. Squires • Editor: Richard Price

Engineers: Arne Akselberg (*Oedipus Rex*), Mike Sheady (*Les Noces*)

Assistant Engineer: Mike Cox • Technical Engineer: Dave Forty

Production Co-ordinator: Alva Minoff • Production Assistant: Phyllis Lanini

Russian Language Coach: Xenia de Berner • Pianos by Steinway & Sons, London

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Publisher: *Les Noces*: Chester Music Ltd. • Booklet Notes: Robert Craft

This recording of *Les Noces* was previously released on Koch International Classics  
Cover Picture: *The Sphinx and the Chimera*, 1906 by Louis Weldon Hawkins (1849-1910)  
(Musée d'Orsay, Paris, France / Bridgeman Art Library)



DDD

8.557499

Playing Time  
76:31



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