

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)

Oedipus Rex*

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

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

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(Musée d'Orsay, Paris, France / Bridgeman Art Library)

NAXOS

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8.557499

Playing Time
76:31



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