

'May whoever listens to this music never experience the insult to which it was subjected and of which I was the witness in the Théâtre des Champs-Élysées, Paris, Spring 1913', wrote Stravinsky in 1968, of the première of his *Rite of Spring*. Written for a huge orchestra to a setting of scenes from pagan Russia, this elemental ballet with its vaulting, violent energy and asymmetrical rhythms almost from beginning to end, has become a major landmark of 20th century music. Stravinsky's orchestral palette, different and distinctive in every work, is never more exotically colourful than in his one act opera *The Nightingale*, which is a virtual catalogue of avian imitations.

Igor STRAVINSKY

(1882-1971)

1-12 The Rite of Spring (Ballet) 31:58

London Symphony Orchestra • Robert Craft

13-40 The Nightingale (Opera in One Act) 44:30

The Nightingale Olga Trifonova, Soprano
The Fisherman Robert Tear, Tenor
The Cook (Kitchen Maid to the Emperor of China) ... Pippa Longworth, Soprano
The Emperor of China Paul Whelan, Bass-baritone
The Chamberlain (Chief Retainer to the Emperor) Stephen Richardson, Bass
The Bonze (Chaplain to the Emperor) Andrew Greenan, Baritone
Death Sally Burgess, Alto
Japanese Envoys 1 and 3 Peter Hall, Tenor
Japanese Envoy 2 Simon Preece, Bass
Courtiers London Voices, prepared by Terry Edwards

Philharmonia Orchestra • Robert Craft

A full track listing can be found on page 2 of the booklet

Previously released on Koch International Classics (**1-12**) and MusicMasters (**13-40**)

Tracks 1-12 recorded at Abbey Road Studio 1, London, from 1st to 4th July, 1995
 Producer: Michael Fine • Engineer: Simon Rhodes • Tracks 13-40 recorded at Abbey Road
 Studio 1, London, from 14th to 17th August, 1997 • Producer: Gregory K. Squires
 Engineer: Michael Steady • Booklet notes: Robert Craft

Includes a transliteration and an English translation of the sung texts of *The Nightingale*

Cover Image: *Sketch for the Rite of Spring* by Nicolas Roerich (1874-1947)

(Art Gallery of Astrakhan, Russia / The Bridgeman Art Library)



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8.557501

Playing Time
76:28



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 Includes sung texts
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