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This recording of airs from Rameau's heroic ballets and lyric tragedies features the renowned haute-contre Jean-Paul Fouchécourt, one of the main exponents of the French Baroque repertoire for the last decade and who, most recently, has been closely associated with Rameau's opera *Platée*. In these excerpts, Rameau's colourful palette of musical characterization traverses a wide range of emotion, from the profoundly moving *Lieux funestes* (*Dardanus*) to the witty and imaginative air *Charmant Bacchus* (*Platée*) when, for example, Rameau cleverly employs "drunken" part writing under Thespis' words "Dussé-je être mal écouté" ("Even at the risk of being misunderstood").

## Jean-Philippe RAMEAU (1683-1764)

- |   |      |  |      |
|---|------|--|------|
| <b>Platée:</b>                              |      | <b>Dardanus (1744 version):</b>        |      |
| ① Que ce séjour est agréable                | 3:52 | ⑨ Lieux funestes                       | 4:59 |
| ② Quittez nymphes quittez                   | 2:26 | <b>Zoroastre:</b>                      |      |
| ③ A l'aspect de ce nuage                    | 7:56 | ⑩ A mes tristes regards                | 3:45 |
| ④ Dans cette fête                           | 3:45 | <b>Zaïs:</b>                           |      |
| <b>La Guirlande de fleurs:</b>              |      | ⑪ Prélude: Charmes des cœurs ambitieux | 4:46 |
| ⑤ Peut-on être à la fois si tendre          | 7:57 | <b>Naïs:</b>                           |      |
| <b>Castor et Pollux:</b>                    |      | ⑫ Cessez de ravager la terre           | 2:54 |
| ⑥ Séjour de l'éternelle paix                | 4:48 | <b>Platée:</b>                         |      |
| <b>Naïs:</b>                                |      | ⑬ Charmant Bacchus                     | 2:39 |
| ⑦ Prélude: La jeune nymphe que j'adore      | 7:34 |  |      |
| <b>Les Festes de l'Hymen et de l'Amour:</b> |      |  |      |
| ⑧ Que vous connaissez mal                   | 6:43 |  |      |

### Jean-Paul Fouchécourt, Haute-contre/Tenor Opera Lafayette • Ryan Brown

*A complete track list can be found on page 2 of the booklet • Editions prepared by Opera Lafayette*  
Recorded at Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center, University of Maryland, USA, 10-13 February, 2006  
Producer: Max Wilcox • Engineers: Max Wilcox and Antonino d'Urzo • Editor: Antonino d'Urzo  
Booklet Notes: Nizam P. Kettaneh, Ryan Brown and Keith Anderson (French translation: David Ylla-Somers)  
Cover Photo: Jean-Paul Fouchécourt as Platée, from the NYCO production of *Platée* (Photo: Carol Rosegg)