

With its bizarre story of moral corruption and violence, Béla Bartók's final stage work, *The Miraculous Mandarin*, was banned after the first performance in 1926. Richly scored, it has a breathtakingly rapid pace, its nightmarish scenes depicted with vibrant and graphic musical intensity. The *Concerto for Orchestra* is one of Bartók's last works and one of his best known and most accessible creations. Each of the five movements plays its own role, but the overriding message is a potently expressive affirmation of life.



Béla  
**BARTÓK**  
(1881-1945)

**The Miraculous Mandarin**  
(Complete Ballet), Op. 19, Sz. 73 30:40

1	Opening – The girl and three tramps	3:10
2	First seduction game: the shabby old rake	3:32
3	Second seduction game: the young student	3:05
4	Third seduction game	1:38
5	The Mandarin enters and remains immobile in the doorway	2:21
6	The girl begins a hesitant dance...	5:40
7	The Mandarin stumbles – the chase becomes even more passionate	0:40
8	The three tramps leap out, seize the Mandarin and tear him away from the girl	1:56
9	Suddenly the Mandarin's head appears between the pillows and he looks longingly at the girl	3:19

10	The terrified tramps discuss how they are to get rid of the Mandarin	1:39
11	The body of the Mandarin begins to glow with a greenish blue light*	1:39
12	She resists no longer – they embrace	2:01

**Concerto for Orchestra, Sz. 11** 37:16

13	I. Introduzione: Andante non troppo – Allegro vivace	9:45
14	II. Giuoco delle coppie: Allegretto scherzando	6:10
15	III. Elegia: Andante non troppo	7:47
16	IV. Intermezzo interrotto: Allegretto	4:17
17	V. Finale: Pesante – Presto	9:17



**Seattle Symphony Chorale\***

Seattle Symphony • Gerard Schwarz

Recorded on 1 November 1988 (*The Miraculous Mandarin*); 6 & 8 December 1989 (*Concerto for Orchestra*) at the Seattle Center Opera House, USA • Executive Producer: Amelia S. Haygood  
Recording Producer: Adam Stern • Recording Engineer: John M. Eargle • Assistant Engineers: Al Swanson & Andrew Dawson (*Concerto for Orchestra*); Laura Wirthlin (*The Miraculous Mandarin*)

Booklet notes: Richard Whitehouse & Keith Anderson

Cover photo & inlay photo of Gerard Schwarz by Ben VanHouten • Previously released on Delos International

**NAXOS**

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Playing Time  
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