

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 potentially expressive affirmation of life.



SEATTLE SYMPHONY

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



DDD

8.571201

Playing Time
1:07:56



www.naxos.com

© 1989, 1991 &
© 2012 Naxos Rights International Ltd.
Booklet notes in English
Made in the USA