

While Louis Vierne is best known for his organ works, his *mélodies* form a unique part of his *œuvre*, reflecting not only his own tragic life but his reaction to the world around him in all its beauty and pain. His vocal compositions can be both lyrical and anguished, deliberately contrasting moments of startling simplicity and elemental fury. Based on the four seasons of the Napoleonic calendar – Floréal, Thermidor, Brumaire and Nivôse, *Le poème de l'amour* depicts human futility against the relentless force of nature, yet does so with music of great beauty. In *Psyché* and *Ballade du désespéré* the artist searches for the meaning of life; in the former *l'amour* (love), in the latter *la mort* (death).

Louis
VIERNE
(1870–1937)

Le poème de l'amour, Op. 48		40:22	9 Les sorcières	2:18
Floréal:			10 Air retrouvé	3:29
1 Le jour où je vous vis	2:06		11 Le bateau noir	1:58
2 Au jardin de mon cœur	2:47		Nivôse:	
3 Le bateau rose	3:16	12 Jour d'hiver	2:07	
Thermidor:		13 Souvenir	2:57	
4 Donne-moi tes baisers	1:44	14 Angoisse	3:33	
5 Le trésor	2:22	15 Sombres plaisirs	2:16	
6 Rondeaux mignons	2:33	16 Psyché, Op. 33*	7:34	
7 Abdication	2:25	17 La ballade du désespéré, Op. 61*	14:41	
Brumaire:				
8 Sonnet d'automne	3:40			

*Original voice and piano versions

Texts for tracks 1–15 by Jean Richepin (1849–1926); for track 16 by Victor Hugo (1802–1885); for track 17 by Henry Murger (1822–1861) • All sung in French • Texts and extended notes may be downloaded from www.naxos.com/libretti/572346.htm



Michael Bundy, Baritone • Jeremy Filsell, Piano



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