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Playing Time
73:13

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This fifth Naxos release of the music of the Franco-Lebanese composer Bechara El-Khoury features three concertos two of which, for wind instruments, are inspired by specific associations with the natural world of the composer's native Lebanon. The *First Violin Concerto* contains allusions to Alban Berg, its outer movements divided by a virtuoso cadenza for the soloist. The composer describes his powerful *Horn Concerto* as 'mountains at night ... reaching up into the sky and melting into mist and space', and the *Clarinet Concerto* as 'impressions and recollections in which poetic colours link together and disappear, like an autumnal cloud'.



Bechara EL-KHOURY

(b. 1957)



Violin Concerto No. 1, Op. 62, 'Aux frontières de nulle part' (On the Borders of Nowhere) (1999–2002)* 22:17

- ① I. Misterioso – Lirico – Drammatico – 11:07
- ② II. Cadenza, violin solo – 4:56
- ③ III. Drammatico – Poetico – Presto con fuoco 6:14

WORLD PREMIÈRE
LIVE RECORDINGS

Horn Concerto, Op. 74, 'The Dark Mountain' (2007–2008)† 25:15

- ④ I. Misterioso energico 9:14
- ⑤ II. Poetico 7:17
- ⑥ III. Drammatico energico 8:39

Clarinet Concerto, Op. 78, 'Autumn Pictures' (2009–2010)‡ 25:31

- ⑦ I. Cantabile 10:53
- ⑧ II. Poetico 5:34
- ⑨ III. Energico 9:04

Sarah Nemtanu, Violin* • David Guerrier, Horn†

Patrick Messina, Clarinet‡

Orchestre National de France*† • Orchestre de Chambre de Paris‡

Kurt Masur* • Jean-Claude Casadesus† • Olari Elts‡

Recorded live at Théâtre des Champs-Élysées, Paris, 25 May 2006 (tracks 1–3), at the Salle Olivier Messiaen, Maison de la Radio, Radio France, Paris, Festival 'Présences', 18 September 2009 (4–6) and at Théâtre du Châtelet, Paris, Festival 'Les Paris de la Musique', 10 November 2010 (7–9) • Producers: Alain Duchemin (1–3), Paul Malinowski (4–6), Raffi Kevorkian (7–9) • Engineers: Christian Prévôt (1–3), Joël Soupiron (4–6), Laurent Fracchia (7–9) • Publishers: Éditions Alphonse Leduc (1–3); Éditions Durand (4–9)

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