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8.573195

Playing Time
71:22

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Giacomo Meyerbeer's eminence as an operatic composer was such that the works he wrote for the Paris Opéra between 1831 and 1865 – *Robert le Diable*, *Les Huguenots*, *L'Africaine* and *Le Prophète* – were among the most spectacular and popular, well into the twentieth century. These overtures and orchestral pieces illustrate the power of Meyerbeer's writing, his sense of drama, his orchestral colouring, and his melodic beauty. *L'Étoile du Nord* and *Dinorah*, written for the Opéra Comique, are lighter in tone, but notable for their programmatic inventiveness.

Giacomo MEYERBEER (1791-1864)

Overtures and Entr'actes from the French Operas

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| 1 | Robert le Diable (1831) – Overture | 3:24 |
| 2 | L'Étoile du Nord (1854) – Overture | 9:08 |
| 3 | Les Huguenots (1836) – Overture | 4:48 |
| 4 | Les Huguenots – Orgie (Drinking Song, Act 1) | 3:36 |
| 5 | Les Huguenots – Entr'acte to Act 2 (Flute solo: Bridget Douglas) | 2:32 |
| 6 | Les Huguenots – Entr'acte to Act 5 | 0:39 |
| 7 | Les Huguenots – Ballet (Act 5) | 2:02 |
| 8 | L'Africaine (1865) – Overture | 4:33 |
| 9 | L'Africaine – Entr'acte to Act 2 | 1:33 |
| 10 | L'Africaine – Entr'acte to Act 3 | 3:44 |
| 11 | L'Africaine – Entr'acte to Act 5 | 1:24 |
| 12 | L'Africaine – Grand scène du mancenillier (Act 5) | 1:41 |
| 13 | Dinorah [Le Pardon de Ploërmel] (1859) – Overture | 13:16 |
| 14 | Dinorah – Entr'acte to Act 2 | 2:55 |
| 15 | Dinorah – Entr'acte to Act 3 | 1:45 |
| 16 | Le Prophète (1849) – Overture | 11:06 |
| 17 | Le Prophète – Coronation March (Act 4) | 3:17 |

New Zealand Symphony Orchestra • Darrell Ang

Recorded at the Michael Fowler Centre, Wellington, New Zealand, from 6th to 8th June, 2013
 Producer: Wayne Laird • Engineer: Paul McGlashan • Booklet notes: Robert Ignatius Letellier
 Cover: *Apotheosis of Giacomo Meyerbeer (Meyerbeer surrounded by characters from his operas)*
 (Photo postcard, coloured, c. 1900) (akg-images)