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8.573694

Playing Time
65:45

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Jacques Offenbach is best remembered for his operettas, but the dramatic *Ouverture à grand orchestre* is a rarely heard early piece that presages his future in musical theatre. The enduring popularity of *Orpheus in the Underworld* is due in no small part to the *Can-Can*, now one of the most iconic pieces in Western classical music. *Orpheus* was Offenbach's first full-length operetta, and *The Drum-Major's Daughter* was to be his last, those in between including the popular vaudeville of *Monsieur et Madame Denis*, humorous satires on Parisian life, and *La Belle Hélène*, an instant success that enjoyed an initial run of 700 performances.

Jacques
OFFENBACH
(1819–1880)

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| 1 | Orphée aux enfers: Overture
(arr. C. Binder and J.G. Busch for orchestra) (1860) | 8:49 |
| 2 | La Fille du tambour-major: Overture (1879) | 6:27 |
| 3 | L'Île de Tulipatan: Overture (1868) | 4:11 |
| 4 | Monsieur et Madame Denis: Overture (1862) | 6:32 |
| 5 | La Belle Hélène: Overture (1864) | 8:32 |
| 6 | Vert-Vert, 'Kakadu': Overture
(arr. F. Hoffman for orchestra) (1869) | 8:49 |
| 7 | La Vie parisienne: Overture (1865) | 5:17 |
| 8 | La Grande-Duchesse de Gérolstein: Overture (1867) | 4:11 |
| 9 | Ouverture à grand orchestre (1843) | 12:52 |

Orchestre National de Lille/Région Hauts-de-France
Darrell Ang

Recorded: 22–25 March 2016 at the Nouveau Siècle, Lille, France
Producer, engineer and editor: Phil Rowlands • Booklet notes: Dominic Wells
Cover: *Thracian Girl Carrying the Head of Orpheus on His Lyre* (detail)
by Gustave Moreau (1826–1898)