

Though Berlioz and, to a lesser extent, Franck wrote symphonic poems, it is Saint-Saëns who has been largely credited with introducing the genre to France. A wide orchestral palette and stirring reserves of drama are used to evoke the youthful audacity and death of *Phaéton*, the ultimate triumph of virtue over pleasure in *La Jeunesse d'Hercule* ('The Youth of Hercules'), and Hercules' punishment, spinning wool while dressed as a woman, for the 'inadvertent murder' of one of his guests, in *Le Rouet d'Omphale* ('The Spinning Wheel of Omphale'). The ever-popular *Danse macabre* is a spooky depiction of Death playing a dance on his fiddle on a tomb in a graveyard surrounded by skeletal dancers.

Camille  
**SAINT-SAËNS**  
 (1835–1921)  
 Symphonic Poems

1	Phaéton – Symphonic Poem, No. 2, Op. 39 (1873)	8:20
2	Marche héroïque, Op. 34 (1870)	6:45
3	La Jeunesse d'Hercule – Symphonic Poem, No. 4, Op. 50 (1877)	15:57
4	Le Rouet d'Omphale – Symphonic Poem, No. 1, Op. 31 (1871)	8:05
5	Sarabande, Op. 93, No. 1 (1892)	6:24
6	Rigaudon, Op. 93, No. 2 (1892)	2:51
7	Danse macabre – Symphonic Poem, No. 3, Op. 40 (1874)	7:06

**Orchestre National de Lille/Région Hauts-de-France**  
**Jun Märkl**

Recorded: 21–24 September 2016 at Le Nouveau Siècle, Lille, France

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Cover: *Hercules Killing the Centaur* by Piccerella (iStockphoto.com)



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Playing Time  
55:28

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