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.

NAXOS

DDD

8.573745

Playing Time 55:28

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

SAINT-SAËNS: Symphonic Poems

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