

A composition pupil of Jules Massenet, Alfred Bruneau was largely responsible for introducing realism into French opera. His friendship with the writer Émile Zola, who shared his desire for theatrical naturalism, strongly informed his work, not least *L'Attaque du moulin* ('The Attack on the Mill'), a 'drame lyrique'. The suite includes rustic elements, but also Mascagni-like verismo beauty tempered by a Gallic palette. Bruneau was a deft orchestrator with a taste for exotic colour, and the excerpts from *Messidor* show the influence of Wagner on one of the most important but overlooked figures in turn-of-the-century French musical life.

**OBC** ORQUESTRA SIMFÒNICA  
DE BARCELONA  
I NACIONAL DE CATALUNYA

Alfred  
**BRUNEAU**  
(1857–1934)

<b>Messidor (1897)</b>	
① Act IV – Prélude	5:54
<b>L'Attaque du moulin</b> (‘The Attack on the Mill’) – Suite (1893)	21:42
② I. Prélude et Lied	4:50
③ II. La Guerre. La Forêt	9:03
④ III. Les Fiançailles au moulin	7:46
<b>Naïs Micoulin (1907)</b>	
⑤ Act I – Prélude	6:13
<b>Messidor (1897)</b>	
⑥ Act III, Tableau I – La Légende de l’or	30:13

Barcelona Symphony Orchestra  
(Orquestra Simfònica de Barcelona i Nacional de Catalunya)  
Darrell Ang

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 NAXOS

8.573888

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Playing Time  
64:31



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