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 Playing Time
67:01


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Opéra-comique emerged in the 19th century as an intermediary between grand opera and burlesque operetta. This album charts its progression as a distinct genre, tracing the origins from Boieldieu and Méhul early in the century via the classic vitality of masters such as Hérold and Maillart into the operetta style of Offenbach and Lécocq. With innovative features, colourful orchestration, drama, wit and atmospheric writing, the operas proved very popular and these overtures encapsulate their immense vivacity and charm.

OPÉRA-COMIQUE OVERTURES

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| Charles GOUNOD (1818–1893) | |
| ① La Nonne sanglante ('The Bleeding Nun') – Overture dramatique (1854)
(arr. Charles Delsaux, 1879–1958) (1925) | 8:10 |
| Jacques Fromental HALÉVY (1799–1862) | |
| ② Les Mousquetaires de la reine ('The Queen's Musketeers') – Overture (1846) | 7:28 |
| Léo DELIBES (1836–1891) | |
| ③ Le Roi l'a dit ('The King Has Spoken') – Overture (1873) | 6:33 |
| Ferdinand HÉROLD (1791–1833) | |
| ④ Zampa – Overture (1831) | 8:07 |
| Étienne-Nicolas MÉHUL (1763–1817) | |
| ⑤ Joseph – Overture (1805) | 5:53 |
| ⑥ Hélène – Overture (1803) | 5:29 |
| Alexandre-Charles LECOCQ (1832–1918) | |
| ⑦ La Petite mariée ('The Little Wife') – Overture (1875) | 6:00 |
| Louis-Aimé MAILLART (1817–1871) | |
| ⑧ Les Dragons de Villars ('The Dragoons of Villars' or 'The Hermit's Bell')
– Overture (1856) | 6:00 |
| François-Adrien BOIELDIEU (1775–1834) | |
| ⑨ Le Calife de Bagdad ('The Caliph of Baghdad') – Overture (1800) | 7:23 |
| Jacques OFFENBACH (1819–1880) | |
| ⑩ Le Mariage aux lanternes ('Marriage by Lantern Light') – Overture (1857) | 5:37 |

ORF RSO

 ORF Vienna Radio Symphony Orchestra
Michael Halász

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Cover: François-Adrien Boieldieu (c. 1800) by Louis-Léopold Boilly (1761–1845)