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8.660072-73

Playing Time
121:24

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Massenet's opera is based on Goethe's novel *The Sorrows of Young Werther*, a seminal work in the *Sturm und Drang* movement which swept Europe at the end of the eighteenth century. First performed in Vienna in 1892, *Werther* is arguably Massenet's finest opera. The score is highly economical, keeping the drama moving throughout with effective musical characterisation. It is packed with memorable tunes and is brilliantly orchestrated. The plot concerns the ill-fated love of the poet Werther for Charlotte, who is already engaged to Albert. Charlotte realises that she feels for him and when her fiancé senses this, he willingly lends his pistols to Werther, who, in despair, shoots himself. Perhaps the most famous number from the opera is *Pourquoi me réveiller, ô souffle du printemps* from Act III, a favourite aria for tenors throughout the twentieth century.



Jules
MASSENET
(1842-1912)
Werther

orchestre national de lille
Région Nord-Pas-de-Calais

Werther Marcus Haddock, Tenor
Charlotte Béatrice Uria-Monzon, Mezzo-Soprano
Albert René Massis, Baritone
Sophie Jaël Azzaretti, Soprano
Le Bailli Jean-Philippe Marlière, Baritone
Johann Jean-Sébastien Bou, Baritone
Schmidt Jean Delescluse, Tenor
Les Enfants Maîtrise Boréale

Orchestre National de Lille-Région Nord/Pas-de-Calais

Jean-Claude Casadesus

CD 1		68:17	CD 2		53:07
1	Prélude	3:46	1	Prélude	2:58
2-11	Act I	34:50	2-11	Act III	30:45
12	Prélude	1:08	12-17	Act IV	19:24
13-18	Act II	28:33			

Assistant to Jean-Claude Casadesus: Pierre-Michel Durand. Recorded during stage performances at the Auditorium du Nouveau Siècle, Lille, France, from 19th-25th June, 1999. Producer: Nick Morgan • Engineer: Iestyn Rees
Editor: Andrew Lang • Booklet Notes: Keith Anderson • Cover Photo: Scene from Act II of *Werther* (Royal Swedish Opera, Stockholm, 1997; Producer: Ann-Margret Pettersson, Scenographer: Lars Östbergh
Costume designer: Annsöfi Nyberg; Lighting designer: Hans-Åke Sjöquist) Photographer: Mats Bäcker