



DDD

8.660118-19

Playing Time

140:43



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 Booklet notes and synopsis in English
 Libretto in French
 Kommentar und Inhaltsangabe auf Deutsch
 Notice, argument et livret en français
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NAXOS RAMEAU: *Castor et Pollux* (1754 version) 8.660118-19

Rameau revised his 1737 opera *Castor et Pollux* in 1754, at the height of the raging debate, the so-called *Querelle des Bouffons*, over the relative merits of French and Italian opera. Long regarded as Rameau's crowning achievement, it won immediate popular success, not only striking a significant blow for French music over Italian music but for the supporters of Rameau who looked to him to take over Lully's mantle as composer of the French national style. Whereas the operas of Lully had been limited to simple subjects based around romantic love, Rameau took French opera to a greater level of complexity both in subject matter and in musical style. With its wider emotional range and dissonant harmonies, *Castor et Pollux* is a tense drama of brotherly and romantic love that brings its own heroic rescue of Castor from the Underworld, as Pollux encounters the devils and monsters that try to bar his way.



Jean-Philippe
RAMEAU
(1683-1764)



Castor et Pollux (1754 Version)

Castor	Colin Ainsworth, Tenor
Pollux	Joshua Hopkins, Baritone
Télaïre	Monica Whicher, Soprano
Phébé/Hébé	Meredith Hall, Soprano
Jupiter	Giles Tomkins, Bass-Baritone
Cléone	Renée Winick, Soprano
Le Grand Prêtre (High Priest)	Brian McMillan, Baritone

Opera In Concert • Aradia Ensemble (Julie Wedman, Concertmaster)
 Kevin Mallon

	CD 1	72:04	CD 2	68:39
1	Overture	4:05	1-5	Act III cont.
2-10	Act I	31:52	6-14	Act IV
11-17	Act II	24:50	15-22	Act V
18-20	Act III	11:17		

Recorded in Grace Church on the Hill, Toronto, Canada from 9th to 13th February, 2003
 Producers: Bonnie Silver and Norbert Kraft • Engineer: Norbert Kraft • Editor: Bonnie Silver
 Performing Edition: Kevin Mallon • Booklet Notes: Kevin Mallon and Keith Anderson
 French Double Harpsichord 'Muguette' built and prepared by Claviers Baroques of Toronto
 Cover Painting: *Piazza a strade convergenti* (c.1740)
 (Stage design by Ferdinando Galli-Bibiena, 1657-1743) (Private Collection)