

André-Ernest-Modeste Grétry was the greatest French composer of opéra-comique in the eighteenth century. His librettist for *Le Magnifique*, Jean-Michel Sedaine, took a tale by La Fontaine and fashioned it into a compelling libretto. Grétry responded with an outstanding score, including one of the first programmatic overtures in musical history. His expressive love music, and extended preludes and postludes, add to the theatrical variety of this important and varied opera.



André-Ernest-Modeste

GRÉTRY

(1741-1813)

Le Magnifique (1773)

Libretto by Michel-Jean Sedaine (1719-1797)

Musical edition by Ryan Brown

WORLD PREMIÈRE RECORDING

Octave, *Le Magnifique* Emiliano Gonzalez Toro, Tenor
 Clémentine, daughter of Horace Elizabeth Calleo, Soprano
 Alix, her governess Marguerite Krull, Soprano
 Aldobrandin, tutor to Clémentine Jeffrey Thompson, Tenor
 Fabio, Aldobrandin's servant Karim Sulayman, Tenor
 Laurence, husband of Alix Douglas Williams, Bass-baritone
 Horace, a Florentine gentleman Randall Scarlata, Baritone

Opera Lafayette • Ryan Brown

1 Ouverture	5:45	14 Entracte	1:49
2-9 Act I	24:13	15-19 Act III	18:17
10-13 Act II	29:56		

A full track and cast list can be found on pages 2 and 3 of the booklet.

The French libretto and an English translation can be accessed at www.naxos.com/libretti/660305.htm, as can the complete French text with the spoken dialogue omitted from this recording.

Recorded at Deikelboum Hall, Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center, University of Maryland, USA, from 6th to 8th February, 2011 • Producer: Barbara Wolf • Engineer: Antonino D'Urzo

Editors: Ryan Brown and Antonino D'Urzo • Booklet notes: Nizam Peter Kettaneh

Cover: The Composer André-Ernest-Modeste Grétry by Jean-Baptiste Stouf (1724-1826)

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Playing Time
80:00



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 Booklet notes and synopsis in English