

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.



Pernod Ricard

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 Dekelboum 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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