

Le Roi et le fermier made Pierre-Alexandre Monsigny famous in France and beyond. Set in an evocative and at times stormy Sherwood Forest it tells of a King's encounter with a humble farmer, blending comedy with serious issues. Its numerous innovations foreshadow Romanticism, making it a milestone in operatic history, with librettist Michel-Jean Sedaine admiring Monsigny's daring in taking "the risk of setting a new genre to music". "This production should be noted and remembered in the annals of Versailles, for the intelligence of its staging, the beauty of its sets, and its high musical quality." (*Opéra Magazine*)



Pierre-Alexandre
MONSIGNY
(1729-1817)

WORLD PREMIERE
RECORDING

Le Roi et le fermier (1762)

Opéra-comique in three acts

Libretto by Michel-Jean Sedaine (1719-1797)

Edition: Opera Lafayette

Le Roi	Thomas Michael Allen, Tenor
Richard (le fermier)	William Sharp, Baritone
Jenny	Dominique Labelle, Soprano
Rustaut	Thomas Dolié, Baritone
Lurewel	Jeffrey Thompson, Tenor
La Mère	Delores Ziegler, Mezzo-soprano
Betsy	Yulia Van Doren, Soprano
Charlot	David Newman, Baritone
Le Courtisan	Tony Boutté, Tenor

Opera Lafayette • Ryan Brown

1 Ouverture	4:18	10-15 Act II	14:59
2-9 Act I	25:21	16-25 Act III	27:33

A full track and cast list can be found on pages 2 and 3 of the booklet • An English translation of the libretto, including the spoken dialogue omitted from this recording, can be accessed at www.naxos.com/libretti/660322.htm

Recorded at Dekelboun Hall, Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center, University of Maryland, USA,
on 23rd and 24th January, 2012 • Producers: Barbara Wolf • Engineer: Antonino D'Urzo

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

Cover and back page of the booklet: Restored 1780 set designs for *Le Roi et le fermier* • Photos: J. M. Manai

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Playing Time
72:12



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