

*L'épreuve villageoise* (The Village Trial) – which, in its original form as *Théodore et Paulin*, was first performed before Marie Antoinette at Versailles – was one of André-Ernest-Modeste Grétry's most popular works. For a century after its 1784 première it enjoyed huge acclaim across Europe and even travelled to the New World, where it captivated audiences in New York. Grétry was a master of eighteenth-century *opéra comique* and this crisp and lively farce centres on a clever farmer's daughter and her two competing suitors. Employing divergent stylistic registers – finesse and naiveté, music reminiscent of popular song, and extended ensembles – Grétry fashioned a score of sophisticated wit and huge charm.

OPERA  
Lafayette

André-Ernest-Modeste  
**GRÉTRY**  
(1741-1813)

**L'épreuve villageoise**  
An opéra bouffon in two acts (1784)

**Libretto by Pierre Desforges (1746-1806)**  
Edition: Opera Lafayette

**WORLD PREMIÈRE RECORDING**

  
Pernod Ricard

  
**NAXOS**

**DDD**

8.660377

Playing Time  
54:00



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Booklet notes and synopsis in English  
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Denise .....	Sophie Junker
Madame Hubert .....	Talise Trevigne
La France .....	Thomas Dolié
André .....	Francisco Fernández-Rueda

**Opera Lafayette • Ryan Brown**

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

The French libretto and an English translation of the libretto, including the spoken dialogue omitted from this recording, can be found online at [www.naxos.com/libretti/660377.htm](http://www.naxos.com/libretti/660377.htm)

Recorded at Dekelboum Hall, The Clarice, University of Maryland, USA, on 25th and 26th January, 2015

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