

Don César de Bazan is an *opéra-comique* with a narrative of dashing Spanish chivalry and romance. Its plot revolves around deception and comedies of reversed identity, with a struggle between true nobility and wicked selfishness maintaining an animated momentum throughout. This was the young Jules Massenet's first full-length opera and yet it is filled with the composer's mature symphonic style, his gift for melody, feeling for the picturesque, and vivacity of rhythm. These distinctive qualities reveal an operatic feast whose time has at last arrived.



Jules Émile Frédéric
MASSENET
(1842–1912)



Don César de Bazan (1888 version)

Opéra-comique in four acts and four tableaux

Libretto by Adolphe Philippe d'Ennery, Dumanoir and Jules Chantepie

Don César de Bazan, a nobleman Laurent Naouri, Baritone
Maritana, a Gypsy street-singer Elsa Dreisig, Soprano
Lazarille, a boy, apprentice arquebusier Marion Lebègue, Mezzo-soprano
King Charles II of Spain Thomas Bettinger, Tenor
Don José de Santarém, first minister to the King Christian Helmer, Baritone
Captain of the Guard Christian Mounougou, Baritone

Ensemble Aedes

Orchestre des Frivolités Parisiennes • Mathieu Romano

CD 1 1 Overture	5:48	2-6 Act I	31:49	7-13 Act II	36:36
CD 2 1-5 Act III	22:47	6-8 Act IV	14:56		

A detailed track list can be found inside the booklet.

The French libretto can be accessed at www.naxos.com/libretti/660464.htm

Recorded: 13–17 February 2019 at the Théâtre Impérial de Compiègne, France

Producer: Thibaut Maillard • Engineer: Étienne Graindorge • Booklet notes: Robert Ignatius Letellier

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Sponsored by Adami, FCM, Fondation Singer-Polignac and Groupe Caisse des Dépôts

A production of Les Frivolités Parisiennes • A co-production with the Théâtre Impérial de Compiègne

Cover design: Pénélope Belzeaux



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Playing Time
1:52:05



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