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Playing Time
2:53:52

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Booklet notes and synopsis in English
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After composing a spectacular series of grand operas for the Paris Opéra, Meyerbeer turned to two comic operas with spoken dialogue. One of these was *L'Étoile du Nord* ('The North Star') which is strictly an *opéra de demi-caractère*, containing both comic and serious elements. This fusion was one of Meyerbeer's most important contributions to the development of grand opera. The plot is a peculiar mixture of village wooing and military life, with music that is full of colour, featuring superb choruses and exceptional orchestration. This 1996 Wexford Festival Opera production features a dazzling young cast under the direction of Vladimir Jurowski.



Giacomo MEYERBEER

(1791–1864)

L'Étoile du Nord

Opera in three acts (1854) • Libretto by Eugène Scribe (1791–1861)

Catherine..... Elizabeth Futral, Soprano
Peter the Great..... Vladimir Ognev, Bass
Prascovia..... Darina Takova, Soprano
Danilowitz..... Aled Hall, Tenor
Gritzenko..... Christopher Maltman, Baritone
Georges..... Juan Diego Flórez, Tenor

Wexford Festival Opera Chorus

Lubomír Mátl, Chorus Master

National Symphony Orchestra of Ireland

Elaine Clarke, Leader • Fergus Shiel, Stage Band Conductor

Vladimir Jurowski

CD 1 [1]–[8] Overture • Act I 77:33 CD 2 [1]–[8] Act II 49:15 CD 3 [1]–[8] Act III 47:04

Previously released on Marco Polo 8.223829-31

A detailed track and cast list can be found inside the booklet.

The French libretto and an English translation can be accessed at www.naxos.com/libretti/660498.htm

Recorded live: 27 and 30 October and 2 November 1996 during the Wexford Opera Festival, Ireland

Producer: Eleanor Thomason (K&A Productions Ltd) • Engineer: Anton Timoney

Artistic director: Luigi Ferrari • Booklet notes: Ronald Crichton and Laura DeMarco

Cover: *Giacomo Meyerbeer*, engraving from a photograph by Pierre Petit (1831–1909)