Jean-Baptiste Lully's unrivalled position at the Sun King's court gave him freedom to produce numerous grand theatre works. *Acis et Galatée* is acknowledged as one of his masterpieces with its adroit alternation of effects and situations and its substantial use of dances and choruses. The opera was composed as part of lavish celebrations for the Dauphin's stay at the castle of Anet and is a *pastorale héroïque*, with its plot based on the love story between the nymph Galatée and the shepherd Acis. The work's 'heroic' element is provided by the presence of the mythical Neptune and cyclops Polyphème who, for the love of Galatée, crushes Acis under a boulder.

8.660529-30

DDD

Playing Time
1:45:16

Maggio Musicale Fiorentino
fondazione

Jean-Baptiste
LULLY
(1632–1687)

Acis et Galatée

Pastorale héroïque in three acts with prologue (1686)
Libretto by Jean Galbert de Campistron (1656–1723), after Ovid's *Metamorphoses*
Sung in French

Acis . . . . Jean-François Lombard, Tenor
Galatée . . . . Elena Harsányi, Soprano
Diane / Second Naiad / Scylla . . . . Valeria La Grotta, Soprano
L'Abondance / Aminte / First Naiad . . . . Francesca Lombardi Mazzulli, Soprano
Comus / Tircis . . . . Mark Van Arsdale, Tenor
Apollon / Priest of Juno / Télème . . . . Sebastian Monti, Tenor
Polyphème . . . . Luigi De Donato, Bass
Neptune . . . . Guido Loconsolo, Baritone

Coro del Maggio Musicale Fiorentino
Lorenzo Fratini, Chorus Master

Orchestra del Maggio Musicale Fiorentino
Federico Maria Sardelli

CD 1 [1]–[9] Prologue 20:02 [10]–[17] Act I 28:59 CD 2 [1]–[6] Act II 22:02 [7]–[16] Act III 34:13

A detailed track list and full recording details can be found inside the booklet
The French libretto can be accessed at www.naxos.com/libretti/660529.htm
Booklet notes: Danilo Prefumo • Performed on period instruments
Cover photo: Michele Monasta (Maggio Musicale Fiorentino)