

The Wooden Prince is a fairy tale ballet with an original story by Bartók's literary acquaintance Béla Balázs, who had also written the libretto to *Bluebeard's Castle* (available on Naxos 8.660928). Though outwardly sunny in its subject matter, *The Wooden Prince* has a mystical side that may explain Bartók's attraction to the story. The ballet's opening pages have often been compared to the opening of Wagner's *Das Rheingold*, and the majestic heart of the score lies in the glorious music Bartók wrote to accompany the prince's apotheosis.



Béla
BARTÓK
(1881-1945)

The Wooden Prince (A Dancing-Play in One Act)

- | | | | |
|--|------|--|------|
| ① Opening: Molto moderato | 4:19 | ⑨ The Prince is in Despair –
The Fairy Comforts Him | 5:18 |
| ② First Dance: Dance of the Princess
in the Forest | 2:46 | ⑩ Great Apotheosis | 3:26 |
| ③ The Prince Meets the Fairy and
Sees the Princess | 2:25 | ⑪ Fifth Dance: The Princess Prods and
Encourages the Wooden Prince to Dance | 2:57 |
| ④ Second Dance: Dance of the Trees | 5:07 | ⑫ Sixth Dance: With an Alluring Dance, the
Princess Tries to Appeal to the Prince | 1:39 |
| ⑤ The Fairy Enchants the Stream –
Third Dance: Dance of the Waves | 4:11 | ⑬ Seventh Dance: Alarmed, the Princess
Hurries After the Prince, But the Forest
Keeps Her Back | 5:00 |
| ⑥ The Prince Builds a Wooden Prince | 4:29 | ⑭ The Prince and Princess Embrace –
Long Kiss – Slow curtain | 3:56 |
| ⑦ The Princess Spies the Wooden Prince | 2:22 | | |
| ⑧ Fourth Dance: Dance of the Princess
with the Wooden Prince | 5:44 | | |

Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra (Leader: Duncan Riddell)
Marin Alsop

Supported by BSO Endowment Trust

Recorded in The Concert Hall, Lighthouse, Poole, UK, on 9th and 10th May, 2007

Producer and editor: Andrew Walton (K&A Productions Ltd.) • Sound engineer: Phil Rowlands

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Cover: Set design for the première of Béla Bartók's *The Wooden Prince*
(Private Collection / Archives Charmet / The Bridgeman Art Library)



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8.570534

Playing Time
53:38



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