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Maurice Rayel's stage works are as subtle and expressively poised as can be imagined. In the Spanishtinged L'Heure espagnole he breathes new life into the Italian genre of the opera buffa, enhancing the comedy in the plot by giving it a gentle human poignancy and poetic presence. The clarity of Rayel's vocal writing, and his signature harmonic magic and luminous orchestration, make this opera a delight for the ear. Don Quichotte à Dulcinée was Rayel's last composition, imbuing Cervantes's famous character with aristocratic Spanish swagger as well as a kind of heroic tenderness and vulnerability. Ravel's L'Enfant et les sortilèges from Lyon can be found on Naxos 8.660336.

## Maurice RAVEL (1875-1937)

## L'Heure espagnole (1907-09)

(The Spanish Hour)

Libretto by Franc-Nohain (1872-1934)

Torquemada, a clockmaker	Luca Lombardo, Tenor
Concepción, Torquemada's wife Isabell	e Druet, Mezzo-soprano
Gonzalve, a student poet	Frédéric Antoun, Tenor
Ramiro, a muleteer	Marc Barrard, Baritone
Don Iñigo Gomez, a banker	Nicolas Courjal, Bass

## Don Quichotte à Dulcinée (1933)

**Texts by Paul Morand (1888-1976)** 

Don Ouichotte ...... François Le Roux, Baritone

## Orchestre National de Lyon • Leonard Slatkin

1-22 L'Heure espagnole

48:30

23-25 Don Quichotte à Dulcinée

7:12

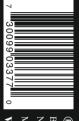
A full track list, cast list and recording details can be found on pages 2 and 3 of the booklet The libretto for L'Heure espagnole can be accessed at www.naxos.com/libretti/660337.htm Publisher: Editions Durand & Cie. • Booklet notes: Philip Weller Cover image by gbanczyk (iStockphoto.com))



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RAVEL: L'Heure espagnole

**Playing Time** 55:42



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