

Gabriel Fauré – Pénélope (1992)

Written by bluesever

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Disc: 1 1. *Penelope: Acte 1- Prelude* 2. *Penelope: Acte 1 - Scene 1: Les fuseaux sont lourds...* 3. *Penelope: Acte 1 - Scene 2: Vers Penelope (Eurymaque)* 4. *Penelope: Acte 1 - Scene 3: Osez-vous penetrer jusqu'ici (Euryclee, Eurymaque)* 5. *Penelope: Acte 1 - Scene 4: Jadis quand on aimait... (Euryclee, Eurymaque)* 6. *Penelope: Acte 1 - Scene 5: Ho-la, ho!...* 7. *Penelope: Acte 1 - Scene 6: Pardonne o vieillard... (Euryclee, Ulysse)* 8. *Penelope: Acte 1 - Scene 7: Je suis seule... (Eurymaque)* [play](#) 9. *Penelope: Acte 1 - Scene 8: Je me plaignais du sort... (Ulysse, Euryclee)* 10. *Penelope: Acte 1 - Scene 9: Epouse cherie... (Ulysse)* 11. *Penelope: Acte 1 - Scene 10: Prends ce manteau, vieillard... (Ulysse, Euryclee)*
Disc: 2

1. *Penelope: Acte II, Introduction - Scene 1: Sur l'épaule des monts... (Eumee)*

[play](#)

2. *Penelope: Acte II - Scene 2: c'est sur ce banc...* 3. *Penelope: Acte II - Scene 3: Eumee, et vous tous les patres... (Ulysse, Eumee)* 4. *Penelope: Acte III, Introduction - Scene 1: Toute la nuit, sans bruit... (Ulysse)* 5. *Penelope: Acte III - Scene 2: Morne et farouche... (Euryclee, Ulysse)* 6. *Penelope: Acte III - Scene 3: Salut, Maitre... (Eumee, Ulysse)* 7. *Penelope: Acte III - Scene 4: Qu'il est doux... (Ulysse, Eurymaque)* 8. *Penelope: Acte III - Scene 5: La Reine... (Eurymaque, Euryclee, Ulysse, Eumee)* 9. *Penelope: Acte III - Scene 6: Justice est faite... (Ulysse, Euryclee)* 10. *Penelope: Acte III - Scene 7: Ulysse est de retour... (Euryclee, Ulysse, Eumee)*

Pénélope - Jessye Norman Euryclée - Jocelyne Taillon Cléone - Norma Lerer Alkandre - Colette Alliot-Lugaz Eurymaque - Philippe Huttenlocher Ctésippe - Paul Guigue Ulysse - Alain Vanzo Eumée - José van Dam Mélantho - Michèle Command Phyllo - Christine Barbaux Antinoüs - Jean Dupouy Léodès - Gérard Friedmann Pisandre - François Le Roux Lydie - Danielle Borst Orchestre Philharmonique de Montecarlo Ensemble Choral Jean Laforge Charles Dutoit, 1980

Pénélope is an opera in three acts by the French composer Gabriel Fauré. The libretto, by René Fauchois, is based on Homer's *Odyssey*. It was first performed at the Salle Garnier, Monte Carlo on 4 March 1913. Fauré was inspired to write the opera after a meeting with the soprano Lucienne Bréval in 1907. She also recommended Fauchois as a librettist. Work on the score

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was slow due to Fauré's teaching commitments at the Paris Conservatoire. For this reason, composer asked Fauchois to reduce the libretto from five to three acts and to cut the character of Ulysses's son Telemachus. Fauré completed the opera at Lugano on August 31, 1912.

The premiere at Monte Carlo was not a great success, partly because the director of the theatre, Raoul Gunsbourg, was more concerned with promoting his own opera, *Vénise*, which made its debut four days later. But *Pénélope* was rapturously received when it appeared at the Théâtre des Champs-Élysées in Paris on May 10, 1913. Unfortunately for Fauré, the theatre soon went bankrupt. Despite critics holding the music in high esteem, revivals of the opera have been rare.

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