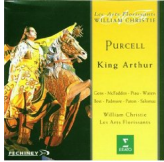


Henry Purcell – King Arthur (Christie) [1995]

Written by bluesever

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1-1 Overture 1:56 1-2 Air 1:02 First Act 1-3 "Woden, First To Thee" 2:51 1-4 "The White Horse Neigh'd Aloud" 1:22 1-5 "The Lot Is Cast, And Tanfan Pleas'd" 0:33 1-6 "Brave Souls, To Be Renown'd In Story" 2:46 1-7 "I Call You All To Woden's Hall" 2:06 1-8 "Come If You Dare" / First Act Tune 4:07 Second Act
1-9 "Hither, This Way, This Way Bend" 2:06 1-10 "Let Not A Moonborn Elf Mislead Ye" / "Hither, This Way, This Way Bend" 1:53 1-11 "Come, Follow Me" 2:22 1-12 "How Blest Are Shepherds" 5:18 1-13 "Shepherd, Shepherd, Leave Decoying" 1:53 1-14 "Come, Shepherd, Lead Up A Lively Measure" / Hornpipe 1:39 1-15 Second Act Tune: Air 1:01

Third Act

1-16 Prelude 0:23 1-17 "What Ho ! Thou Genius Of This Isle" 1:01 1-18 Prelude (While The Cold Genius Rises) 4:08 1-19 "Thou Doting Fool" 0:38 1-20 "Great Love, I Know Thee Now" 0:55 1-21 "No Part Of My Dominion" 0:56 1-22 Prelude 0:45 1-23 "See, See, We Assemble" / Dance 1:28 1-24 "Tis I That Have Warm'd Ye" / Ritornello / "Tis Love That Has Warm'd Us" 1:59 1-25 "Sound A Parley" / "Tis Love That Has Warm'd Us" 4:00 1-26 Third Act Tune: Hornpipe 0:47

Fourth Act

2-1 "Two Daughters Of This Aged Stream Are We" 2:35 2-2 Passacaglia / "How Happy The Lovers" / Ritornello / "For Love Every Creature" / "In Vain Are Our Graces" / Chorus Trio 7:11 2-3 Fourth Act Tune: Air 0:40

Fifth Act

2-4 Trumpet Tune 0:47 2-5 "Ye Blust'ring Brethren Of The Skies" 3:24 2-6 Symphony 1:42 2-7 "Round Thy Coast" 3:24 2-8 "For Folded Flocks, And Fruitful Plains" 2:01 2-9 "Your Hay It Is Mow'd" 2:27 2-10 "Fairest Isle" 4:41 2-11 "You Say 'Tis Love" 5:26 2-12 Trumpet Tune (Warlike Consort) 0:35 2-13 "Saint George" 2:07 2-14 "Our Natives Not Alone Appear" 1:05 2-15 Chaconne 3:36

Veronique Gens (soprano) (tracks: 1-5, 1-13, 2-2, 2-10) Claron McFadden (soprano) (tracks: 1-9, 1-11, 2-1, 2-13) Sandrine Piau (soprano) (tracks: 1-13, 2-1, 2-11) Iain Paton (tenor) (tracks: 1-8, 1-12, 2-8) Jonathan Best (bass) (tracks: 1-10, 2-2, 2-8, 2-11) Mark Padmore (tenor) (tracks: 1-4, 1-7, 2-2, 2-8) Petteri Salomaa (bass) (tracks: 1-4, 1-18, 1-20, 1-25, 2-5, 2-9) Les Arts Florissants William Christie - conductor

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King Arthur is a “semi-opera”, which isn’t to say that the music is only semi-interesting. On the contrary, some of the best work Purcell ever did is contained here, including the famous “frost scene”, with its shivering, notated vibrato in voices and instruments. This performance was notable for being produced in France, with a fine international cast. When it was released some critics (if I recall) had things to say about the accents of some of the singers, as if any of us would understand the English of Purcell’s day, or know what it really sounded like. All that matters is this: Christie leads a colorful, dynamic performance on period instruments, and the cast, including such luminaries as Véronique Gens and Mark Padmore in their primes, sounds fully engaged with both music and text. The engineering is also excellent. Great fun.-- David Hurwitz, ClassicsToday.com

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