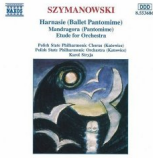


Karol Szymanowski – Harnasie-Mandragora-Concert Overture (1990)

Written by bluesever

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1. *Harnasie Op.55* 2. *Mandragora Op.43 Scene I i II* 3. *Mandragora Scene III* 4. *Etude for Orchestra in B flat minor Op.4 No.3* Polish State Philharmonic Chorus Polish State Philharmonic Orchestra Karol Stryja – conductor

Harnasie is a choral ballet with folk inspired songs and dances that can perhaps be best compared to Stravinsky's *Les Noce* (The Wedding). It has a similar enlivening sense of rhythm and some really fresh and appealing tunes. The only reason it isn't more popular, no doubt, is because it's hard to find a chorus comfortable singing in Polish. But that's why God invented records, right? *Mandragora*, by contrast, is a humorous commedia dell'arte play about the rescue of a shipwrecked heroine from the lecherous embrace of her would-be savior. These authentic performances give a good account of the music, and at budget price won't dent your wallet. --David Hurwitz, amazon.com

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