Ravel – Daphnis Et Chloe (Munch) [1993]



1. Invocation To The Nymphs 2. Entrance Of Daphnis And Chloe 3. Dance Of The Young Girls Around Daphnis 4. Dorcon's Advance To Chloe play 5. Daphnis Reasserts His Love For Chloe/The Dorcon-Daphnis Dance Contest For A Kiss From Chloe 6. Dorcon's Grotesque Dance 7. The Gracious Dance Of Daphnis 8. The Triumph Of Daphnis And The Ecstatic Union With Chloe 9. Entrance Of The Temptress Lyceion And Dance Of Veils play

10. The Invasion Of The Pirates And Daphnis's Unsuccessful Efforts To Save Chloe 11. Invocation To Pan By The Nymphs And The Prayer Of Daphnis 12. Interlude 13. The Orgiastic Dance Of The Pirates 14. Bryaxis Orders Chloe To Be Brought Forward And To Dance 15. Chloe's Dance Of Supplication 16. Creatures Of Pan Appear And Frighten The Pirates, Who Flee In Terror, Leaving Chloe Alone With A Shining Crown 17. Sunrise. Daphnis Prostrate At The Grotto Of The Nymphs 18. Daphnis And Chloe Are Reunited 19. Lammon Tells How Pan Saved Chloe In Memory Of His Love For The Nymph Syrinx. Daphnis And Chloe Act Out The Story 20. pan (Daphnis) Fashions A Flute From Some Reeds, On Which He Declares His Love For Syrinx (Chloe) 21. Abandoning Their Roles, The Lovers Embrace And Kneel At The Altar Of The Nymphs 22. Girls Dressed As Bacchantes Enter With Tambourines 23. Young Men Invade The Scene, And Joyous Tumult Prevails In Tribute To The Triumph Of The Lovers Boston Symphony Orchestra Charles Munch - conductor

One of the all-time greatest Ravel discs now comes in even superior sound quality. Fifty years after date, Charles Munch's 1955 reading remains nothing less than ideal by its totally spontaneous drive, its unerring sense of colour and atmosphere, while the virtuosic playing of the Boston Symphony is quite simply outstanding. The beautifully balanced sound (always a great asset of these early RCA stereo recordings) is most impressively rendered by the DSD technology.

A true gem of the classical catalogue, a clear first-choice for Daphnis and Chloe - not to be missed by any serious collector. --- Marc Haegeman

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Daphnis et Chloé is a ballet with music by Maurice Ravel. Ravel described it as a "symphonie choréographique" (choreographic symphony). The scenario was adapted by Michel Fokine from an eponymous romance by the Greek writer Longus thought to date from around the 2nd century AD. Scott Goddard published a contemporary commentary that discussed the changes to the story that Fokine made to prepare a workable ballet scenario. The story concerns the love between the goatherd Daphnis and the shepherdess Chloé. The ballet is in one act and three scenes.

Ravel began work on the score in 1909 after a commission from Sergei Diaghilev. It was premiered at the Théâtre du Châtelet in Paris by his Ballets Russes on June 8, 1912. The orchestra was conducted by Pierre Monteux, the choreography was by Michel Fokine, and Vaslav Nijinsky and Tamara Karsavina danced the parts of Daphnis and Chloe. Léon Bakst designed the original sets.

At almost an hour long, Daphnis et Chloé is Ravel's longest work. In spite of the ballet's time length, a small number of musical leitmotifs gives musical unity to the score. The music, some of the composer's most passionate, is widely regarded as some of Ravel's best, with extraordinarily lush harmonies typical of the impressionist movement in music. Even during the composer's lifetime, contemporary commentators described this ballet as his masterpiece for orchestra. He extracted music from the ballet to make two orchestral suites, which can be performed with or without the chorus. The second of the suites, which includes much of the last part of the ballet and concludes with the "Danse generale", is particularly popular. When the complete work is itself performed live, it is more often in concerts than in staged productions.

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