

**Christophe Rousset and Les Talens Lyriques
venture into Wagner for Michael Spyres' album
In The Shadows released on **Friday 1 March**
on Erato label**



Erato CD number

[Audio \(streaming\)](#) - [Audio \(download\)](#) - [Assets](#)

Digipack

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In their first venture into the operatic repertoire of Wagner, **Christophe Rousset and Les Talens Lyriques have joined Michael Spyres for his album *In the Shadows*** released on Erato on **Friday 1 March**. The disc which builds up to some arias from Wagner's youthful operas, comes ahead of Spyres' appearance in the title role of Lohengrin at the Opera National du Rhin in Strasbourg from **10 March to 10 April** with Orchestre Philharmonique de Strasbourg conducted by Aziz Shokhakimov and director Florent Siaud. Recently named **Singer of the Year at the Oper Awards**, Spyres gave a preview of "*Mein lieber Schwan*" from Lohengrin at the recent ceremony.

With *In the Shadows*, Spyres sought out the operas of French, Italian and German composers who paved the way for the epic works of Richard Wagner – including Mehul, Beethoven, Rossini, Meyerbeer, Weber, Auber, Spontini, Bellini and Marschner.

Christophe Rousset and Les Talens Lyriques have specialised predominantly in baroque and classical repertoire with occasional forays into romanticism with *Les Tragediennes* albums with Veronique Gens and more recently with *Faust* by Gounod, *La Vestale* by Spontini, the complete Schubert Symphonies cycle, and

more recently with a *Tribute to Pauline Viardot* and *Fausto* by Louise Bertin. With his lithe orchestra, Rousset brings a fresh approach to Wagner, capturing the warmth and sentimentality of his early work, in particular in the heart-wrenching arias from Wagner's overlooked early operas *Die Feen* and *Rienzi*. Wagner described his third opera *Rienzi* as "*a work of youthful fire*" inspired by the operas of Spontini, Auber and Meyerbeer, even though subsequently he dismissed it.

As Michael Spyres explains,

"I discover that my route to Wagner traverses an intertwined network of influences that shaped him: with few exceptions, the repertoire that has moved and challenged me most has been music that inspired young Wagner himself. In an era of socio-political and cultural revolution, these pre-Wagner composers – Auber, Bellini, Berlioz, Halévy, Méhul, Meyerbeer, Rossini, Spontini, Weber – revolutionized music's dramatic expression in surprisingly inventive ways. Wagner's profound ingenuity is rendered all the more remarkable when considered in the context of this powerful legacy of compositional innovation."

Beethoven's vocal composition for Florestan in his only opera Fidelio established the prototype for Wagner's Heldentenor. Beethoven pushed the boundaries of the dramatic tenor tessitura with Florestan, and in so doing paved the way for Wagnerian tenor roles.

With the opera scene of revolutionary Europe mirroring the political and societal upheavals of the Romantic era, Wagner became more determined than ever to create a German identity. In Lohengrin, completed in 1848 and his last opera before his political exile, Wagner discovers his unique voice, establishing the vocal and dramatic lineage that would persist until his final work Parsifal.

Christophe Rousset commented,

"I was delighted when Michael Spyres asked us to collaborate with him on this intriguing programme. Unconditioned by the weight of tradition, I have approached Wagner's music from the standpoint of what came before him, with no interest in how his music came to be defined later. With no preconceived ideas, it has been curious discovering this music free of its weighty Teutonic undertone."

TRACK LISTINGS

Etienne-Nicolas Méhul

1. Joseph en Egypte, « Vainement Pharaon... Champs paternels

Ludwig van Beethoven

2. Fidelio, « Gott! Welch Dunkel hier!... In des Lebens »

Gioacchino Rossini

3. Elisabetta, regina d'Inghilterra, « Della cieca fortuna... Sposa amata... Saziati, o sorte ingrata ? »

Giacomo Meyerbeer

4. Il crociato in Egitto -« Suonafunerea »

Carl Maria von Weber

5. Der Freischütz -« Nein, Länger Trag Ich Nicht »

Daniel François Esprit Auber

6. La muette de Portici -« Spectacle affreux ... »

Gaspard Spontini

7. Agnes von Hohenstaufen, « Der Strom wälzt ruhig seine dunklen Wogen »

Vincenzo Bellini

8. Norma -« Meco all'altar di Venere...Me protegge, me difende »

Heinrich Marschner

9. Hans Heiling op. 80 - « Gonne mir ein wort der Liebe »

Richard Wagner

10. Die Feen WWV 32 -« Wo find ich dich, wo wird mir Trost? »

Richard Wagner

11. Rienzi, der letzte der Tribunen WWV 49, « Allmächt'ger Vater, blick herab »

Richard Wagner

12. Lohengrin WWV 75, « Mein lieber Schwan »

Artists:

Michael Spyres baritone

Julien Henric tenor, track 8

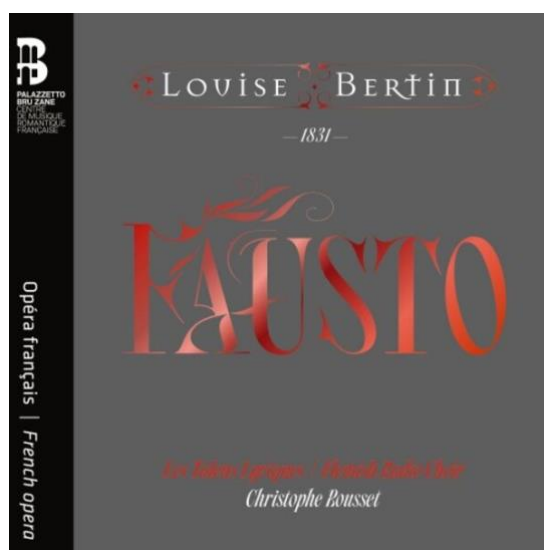
Le Jeune Choeur de Paris tracks 4, 8

Les Talens Lyriques

Christophe Rousset conductor

Current releases

Louise Bertin's *Fausto*



Les Talens Lyriques / Christophe Rousset
Chœur de la Radio Flamande

26 January 2024 / 2 CD Palazzetto Bru Zane

Karine Deshayes Fausto
Karina Gauvin Margarita
Ante Jerkunica Mefistofele
Nico Darmanin Valentino
Marie Gautrot Catarina
Diana Axentii Una Strega/Marta
Thibault de Damas Wagner/Un Banditore
Flemish Radio Choir
Thomas Tacquet Choir master
Les Talens Lyriques
Christophe Rousset Conductor

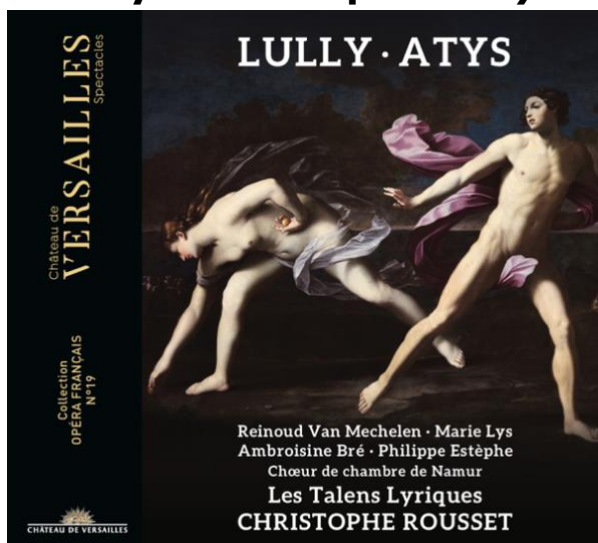
***"Christophe Rousset and... Les Talens Lyriques make Fausto
flare into life"***

Financial Times

***"Christophe Rousset proves the recently rediscovered score...
deserves a much wider audience."***

Guardian

Lully's masterpiece Atys



Disc number: CVS126

Reinoud Van Mechelen Atys
Ambroisine Bré Cybèle
Marie Lys Flore, Sangaride
Apolline Raï-Westphal Melpomène, Mélisse
Gwendoline Blondeel Iris, Doris
Kieran White Un Zéphyr, Le Sommeil
Nick Pritchard Morphée
Antonin Rondepierre Phantase
Olivier Cesarini Le Temps, Le fleuve Sangar, Phobétor

Philippe Estèphe Célénus
Romain Bockler Idas
Vlad Crosman Un songe funeste

Namur Chamber Choir
Thibaut Lenaerts Chorus master

Les Talens Lyriques
Christophe Rousset conductor

"Lully and Rousset are a marriage made in heaven."
Opera Magazine

Further upcoming disc releases

L'Olimpiade
Domenico Cimarosa
Les Talens Lyriques / Christophe Rousset
2024 / 2 CD Château de Versailles Spectacles

Toccatas
Johann Sebastian Bach
Christophe Rousset harpsichord
2024 / 1 CD Aparté

Season Listings

2 February 2024, 19:30
4 February 2024, 15:00
6, 8, 10, 13, 15, 17, 20, 22
February 2024, 19:30
Théâtre du Châtelet, Paris

Mozart: *Così Fan Tutte*

Agneta Eichenholz Fiordiligi
Claudia Mahnke Dorabella
Rainer Trost Ferrando
Russel Braun Guglielmo
Patricia Petibon Despina
Georg Nigl Don Alfonso

Stella Maris Choir
Olivier Bardot Choral Master

Dmitri Tcherniakov director, stage
design
Elena Zaysteva Costumes
Gleb Filshtinsky Lights

7, 8 June 2024
Kaisersaal, Würzburg, Germany

Mozart: *Così Fan Tutte*

Galina Averina Fiordiligi
Emilie Renard Dorabella
Jeremy Ovenden Ferrando
Benjamin Appl Guglielmo
Judith Van Wanroij Despina
Georg Nigl Don Alfonso

Choeur du Festival de Würzburg
Les Talens Lyriques
Christophe Rousset conductor

5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15 April 2024, 19:00
Theater an der Wien, Austria

**Salieri: *Kubla Khan (Cublai, Gran
Kan de Tartari)***

Carlo Lepore Cublai
Marie Lys Alzima
Alasdair Kent Timur
Lauranne Oliva Lipi
Fabio Capitanucci Orcano
Āneas Humm Posega
Ana Quintans Memma
Giorgio Caoduro Bozzone

Martin G. Berger Director
Arnold Schoenberg Chor
Les Talens Lyriques
Erwin Ortner Chorus Master
Christophe Rousset conductor

31 March 2024, 19:00

Theater an der Wien, Vienna

16 May 2024

Opéra Royal, Versailles, France

Cimarosa: L'Olimpiade

Josh Lovell Clistene
Rocío Pérez Aristeia
Marie Lys Argene
Maite Beaumont Megacle
Mathilde Ortscheidt Licida
Alex Banfield Aminta

Les Talens Lyriques
Christophe Rousset conductor

3, 4 May 2024

The Kennedy Center's Terrace Theater,
Washington DC

7 May 2024

El Museo del Barrio, New York

Mouret: The Triumph of Thalia

Claire van Kampen director
Antonia Franceschi choreography

Ah Young Hong soprano
Pascale Beaudin soprano
Margot Rood soprano
Angel Azzarra soprano
Matthew Newlin tenor
Patrick Kilbride tenor
Jean-Bernard Cerin baritone
Taylor Ward baritone bass
Jonathan Woody baritone bass

Opéra Lafayette
Christophe Rousset **GUEST CONDUCTOR**

22 May 2024

Le Majestic, Montereau-Fault-Yonne

24, 25 May 2024, 19:30

Mozartfest Würzburg, Germany

Mozart & Friends

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

« *Rivolgete a lui lo sguardo* » (*Così fan tutte*, K. 588)

« *Mentre ti lascio, oh figlio* », aria de concert K. 513

Giuseppe Sarti (1729-1802)

« *Come un agnello* » (*Fra i due litiganti il terzo gode*)

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Ouverture de *La clemenza di Tito*, K. 621 (1791)

Joseph Haydn

« *Chi spira e non spera* » (*L'anima del Filosofo*, 1791)

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

« *Io ti lascio, oh cara, addio* », aria de concert K. A245/621a (1791)

« *Un bacio di mano* » aria de concert K. 541 (1788)

Symphonie n° 36 en do majeur « *Linz* », K. 425 (1783)

Vicente Martín y Soler

« *Dov'è dunque il mio ben?... Vo' dall'infami viscere* » (*Una cosa rara*, 1786)

Antonio Salieri

« *Torbido mar che freme* » (*La passione di Gesù Cristo*, 1776)

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

« *Vedrò mentr'io sospiro* » (*Le nozze di Figaro*, K. 492, 1792)

Benjamin Appl baritone

Les Talens Lyriques

Christophe Rousset conductor

26 May 2024, 11:00

Fürstennal Residenz

Würzburg (Allemagne)

Mozart in Paris

Mozart: Violin Sonata No.2 in D, K.7

Claude Balbastre: Pièce de clavecin en sonate avec accompagnement de violon, Sonate Ire

Bach *Sonata for violin and keyboard in B flat major, Op. 10 No.1*

Boccherini *Violin Sonata in B-flat major, Op.5 No.3 G. 27*

Mozart *Violin Sonata No.18 in G major, K. 301/293a*

Gilone Gaubert violin

Christophe Rousset harpsichord,
conductor

17 May 2024, 18:00

Oslo Cathedral, Norway

28 May 2024, 19:00

Namur Concert Hall, Belgium

30 May 2024

Halle, Germany

Handel: *Jephtha*

Jeremy Ovenden Jephtha

Sophie Harmsen Storgé

Deborah Cachet Iphis

Tim Mead Hamor

Edwin Crossley-Mercer Zebel
soprano (Namur Choir) Angel

Namur Chamber Choir

Thibaut Lenaerts Chorus Master

Les Talens Lyriques

Christophe Rousset conductor

**17,19,21,23 and 25 June 2024,
20:00**

Théâtre national de l'Opéra comique,
France

Lully: *Armide*

Ambroisine Bré Armide

Cyrille Dubois Renaud

Apolline Rai-Westphal La Sagesse,
Phénice, Mélisse, une naïade

Florie Valiquette La Gloire, Sidonie,
Lucinde, une bergère héroïque

Edwin Crossley-Mercer Hidraot

Lysandre Châlon Ubalde, Aronte

Enguerrand de Hys Artémidore, Le
Chevalier Danois

Anas Séguin La Haine

Abel Zamora Un amant fortuné

Lilo Baur Director

Chœur Les Éléments

Joël Suhubiette Chorus Master

Les Talens Lyriques

Christophe Rousset Conductor

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