



ORCHESTRAL

WINNER Ravel from François-Xavier Roth's *Les Siècles*

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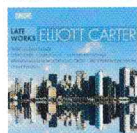
I'm delighted my fellow critics adored this recording of *Daphnis et Chloé* as much as I did. I've long been an admirer of Les Siècles, the orchestra formed by François-Xavier Roth in 2003, and have been intrigued by their period-instrument explorations into the early 20th century. The orchestra's debut on the Harmonia Mundi label was taken from concerts in seven venues, closely miked and miraculously stitched together on this outstanding recording.

Perhaps the great conductors of Ravel's *symphonie chorégraphique* such as Pierre Monteux and Ernest Ansermet would have recognised the characteristic 'French' sound from their youths (Monteux conducted the 1912 premiere). The French-built period woodwind and brass

THE RECORDING

Ravel *Daphnis et Chloé*
Ensemble Aedes; Les Siècles / François-Xavier Roth
 Harmonia Mundi © HMM90 5280 (6/17)
 Producer **Jifi Heger**
 Engineers **Alix Ewald & Bergame Periaux**
143 votes

RUNNERS-UP



Carter 'Late Works'
Soloists; BCMG; BBC SO / Oliver Knussen
 Ondine © ODE1296-2 (9/17)
136 votes



Tchaikovsky Symphony No 6, 'Pathétique'
MusicaAeterna / Teodor Currentzis
 Sony Classical © 88985 40435-2 (1/18)
124 votes

offer greater tonal sweetness than modern instruments, especially the Selmer trumpets, but this isn't just a recording to appreciate from some sort of 'worthy' HIP perspective – it's a tremendous performance all by itself. From the shimmering haze of the Introduction, there's an excitement, a sense of anticipation which tempts you to lay your critical faculties aside and just wallow in a glorious account.

From a pulsating 'Danse guerrière' through the rippling sunrise to the gossamer beauty of Marion Ralincourt's flute solo in the Pantomime, this is a recording to treasure. **Mark Pullinger**

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