

CD  
OF THE  
WEEK

## Classical

**STRAVINSKY, GLAZUNOV, GRIEG ET AL**  
**L'Oiseau de feu; Les Orientales**  
**Les Siècles, cond François-Xavier Roth**  
Les Siècles Live ASM06

This centenary concert performance of Stravinsky's breakthrough work, recorded live in 2010, is fascinatingly coupled here with the composite ballet with which it shared a bill at its first performance by Diaghilev's Ballets Russes in 1910: *Les Orientales*, a potpourri of catchy orientalist tunes by the Russians Glazunov and Arensky, and the Norwegians Sinding and Grieg (their single contributions, *Danse orientale* and *The Little Troll*, from the *Pièces lyriques*, respectively in reconstructed orchestrations by Charlie Piper and Bruno Mantovani). The pairing is a first on disc, and only serves to emphasise the astounding originality of Stravinsky's music — even this wondrous score is still often disparaged, in its complete form, as derivative of the style of his teacher, Rimsky-Korsakov. Using copies of period instruments, Roth encourages fabulously transparent textures from the players of *Les Siècles*, demonstrating how much the young Stravinsky owed to his older (French) contemporaries Debussy and Ravel. Yet the Russian "accent" is unmistakable in his folkloric melodies and splashy colouristic orchestration. *Les Siècles* are exhilaratingly virtuosic in action pieces such as the capture of the Firebird by Tsarevich Ivan. There are more rhythmically incisive modern-instrument accounts of the *Infernal Dance*, but Roth's works brilliantly in context. There is much that is revelatory here. **HC**





### A RUM DEAL

► How Johnny Depp got Bruce Robinson behind the camera again

**THE SUNDAY TIMES**

# Stravinsky, Glazunov, Grieg et al - L'Oiseau de feu

Using copies of period instruments this 2010 recording emphasises the originality of Stravinsky's music

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*Hugh Canning* Published: 30 October 2011

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François-Xavier Roth conducted a centenary concert of Stravinsky (Francois Sechet)

## [Stravinsky, Glazunov, Grieg et al - L'Oiseau de feu; Les Orientales Les Siècles, cond François-Xavier Roth](#)

*Les Siècles Live ASMO6*

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