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HENRY PURCELL

The Fairy Queen

Stour Music Chorus and Orchestra, Alfred Deller

2h10 3 Vinyl HMM332313 November 2019

A masterpiece of the 'semi-opera'.

On the strength of the immense success of *Dido & Aeneas* and *King Arthur*, in 1692 Purcell went on to produce *The Fairy Queen*, based on Shakespeare's *A Midsummer-Night's Dream*. The work is, in fact a 'semi-opéra', or 'opera with dialogue', in which only some of the crucial scenes are provided with music. But this version of *A Midsummer-Night's Dream* by the 'Orpheus Britannicus' became almost as famous as the play that inspired it, with its love scenes, its supernatural scenes and its innate sense of musical humour investing it with an irresistible savour and enchantment.

Artists

- Stour Music Chorus and Orchestra
- Alfred Deller
Conductor

Composers

- Henry Purcell

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HENRY PURCELL [1659-1695]

The Fairy Queen, Z. 629

• The First Musick

- I. Prelude (1'57)
- II. Hornpipe (0'57)

• The Second Musick

- I. Air (0'58)
- II. Rondeau (1'20)
- III. Overture (0'35)

• Act I

- Come let us leave* (Two Fairies)(3'13)
- Scene of the drunken poet (5'47)
- First Act tune (1'13)

• Act II

- Prelude. *Come all ye songsters* (A Fairy)(1'56)
- Prelude. (0'41)
- *May the God of wit* (Three Fairies)(0'58)
- Echo. Now join your warbling voices (1'32)
- *Sing while we trip* (A Fairy). Fairy Dance (2'13)
- *See, even night* (Night)(5'14)

- *I am come to lock* (Mistery)(0'46)
- *One charming night* (Secret)(2'04)
- *Hush, no more* (Sleep)(5'02)
- Dance for the followers of Night (2'23)
- Second Act tune (1'22)

· **Act III**

- If love's a sweet passion* (A Nymph)(2'18)
- Symphony while the swans come forward (3'24)
- Dance for the Fairies (0'51)
- Dance for the Green Men (1'48)
- *Ye gentle spirits of the air* (A Nymph)(4'53)
- Dialogue between Corydon and Mopsa (3'51)
- *When I have often heard* (A Nymph)(2'48)
- Dance for the Haymakers (0'52)
- *A thousand, thousand ways* (Corydon, Mopsa)(2'32)
- Third Act tune (1'10)

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· **Act IV**

- Symphony (6'15)
- *Now the night* (Attendants)(2'15)
- *Let the fifes and the clarions* (Attendants)(1'25)
- Entry of Phoebus (0'44)
- *When a cruel long winter* (Phoebus)(3'10)
- *Hail! Great parent* (Fairies)(2'07)
- *Thus the ever grateful Spring* (Spring)(2'09)
- *Here's the summer* (Summer)(1'11)
- *See, see my many colour'd fields* (Autumn)(2'54)
- *Now winter comes slowly* (Winter)(3'55)
- *Hail! Great parent!* (Fairies)(1'09)
- Fourth Act tune (1'10)

· **Act V**

- Prelude (0'36)
- *Thrice happy lovers* (Juno)(2'32)
- The Plaint (7'23)
- Entry Dance (1'14)
- Symphony (1'04)
- *Thus the gloomy world* (The Chinese Man)(4'48)
- *Thus happy and free* (A Chinese Woman)(0'54)
- *Yes Xansi* (The Chinese Man)(2'09)
- Monkey's Dance (0'52)
- *Hark how all things* (A Chinese Woman)(2'01)
- *Hark! The choing air* (A Chinese Woman)(2'43)
- *Sure the dull God* (A Chinese Woman)(3'03)
- Prelude. *See, I obey* (Hymen)(1'52)
- *Turn then thine eyes* (Chinese Woman)(1'32)
- *My torch indeed* (Hymen)(0'39)
- *They shall be as happy* (0'48)
- Chaconne (3'03)
- *They shall be as happy* (0'59)

