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IGOR STRAVINSKY

The Soldier's Tale

Isabelle Faust, Dominique Horwitz, Alexander Melnikov

1h17 1 CD HMM992671 November 2023

The Devil's violin Deeply scarred by the First World War and by the upheavals of the October Revolution in his homeland, Stravinsky found, with the help of the Swiss author Ramuz, a subject that resonated perfectly with his era. In this music theatre piece inspired by an old Russian folktale, *The Deserter and the Devil*, the composer of *The Rite of Spring* explored new paths in the last months of the First World War, which would soon lead him to a very personal form of neo-classicism.

With this English version, in which Dominique Horwitz plays all the spoken roles in masterly fashion, the musicians assembled by Isabelle Faust have taken up the challenge of performing on instruments contemporary with the premiere. As a result, the work reveals its true personality and its immensely original colours, keen and biting. It is coupled here with two unjustly neglected gems by its composer, to mark the fiftieth anniversary of his death.

Artists

- Isabelle Faust
Violin
- Lorenzo Coppola
Clarinet
- Javier Zafra
Bassoon
- Reinhold Friedrich

Composers

- Igor Stravinsky

Contents

IGOR STRAVINSKY [1882-1971]

· **Élégie** for solo violin(1944)(5'15)

Duo concertant for violin and piano (1932)

· I. Cantilène (2'56)

· II. Églogue I (2'22)

· III. Églogue II (3'22)

· IV. Gigue (4'27)

· V. Dithyrambe (3'23)

The Soldier's Tale

to be read, played and danced, in two parts

words by Charles Ferdinand Ramuz (1918)

· *Part one*

Marching song (1'45)

- *Phew. This isn't a bad sort of spot* (1'10)
- *Music to Scene 1. Airs by a stream* (2'33)
- *The Devil appears* (4'59)
- *Marching song (reprise)* (1'36)
- *Hurray ! Here we are* (2'43)
- *Music to scene 2. Pastorale* (2'57)
- *Ah, you dirty cheat! It's you!* (3'19)
- *Music to scene 3. Airs by a stream (reprise)* (0'45)
- *Good to touch, good to feel* (3'06)
- *Part two*
- *Marching song (reprise)* (1'40)
- *Now he comes to another land* (2'21)
- *Royal March* (3'08)
- *I went off just as we thought it would* (3'00)
- *Little Concert* (2'54)
- *Three Dances : 1. Tango* (2'26)
- *2. Waltz* (2'08)
- *3. Ragtime* (2'26)
- *Dance of the Devil* (1'15)
- *Little Chorale* (0'41)
- *Devil's Song* (0'34)
- *Great Chorale* (3'51)
- *Suppose, suppose we went there* (1'31)
- *Devil's Triumphal March* (2'14)