

The Best of STRAVINSKY



The Rite of
Spring

Petrushka

The Firebird

The Soldier's
Tale

Pulcinella

DDD

8.556685

Igor Stravinsky 1882 - 1971

The son of a distinguished Russian singer, Stravinsky spent his earlier years in Russia, either in St. Petersburg or, in the summer, at the country estates of his relatives. He studied music briefly with Rimsky-Korsakov but made a name for himself first in Paris with commissions from the impresario Dyagilev, for whom he wrote a series of ballet scores. He spent the years after the Russian Revolution of 1917 in Western Europe and in 1939 moved to the United States of America. There in the post-war years he turned from a style of eclectic neo-classicism to composing in the twelve-note technique propounded by Schoenberg. A versatile composer, inventive in changing styles, he may be seen as the musical counterpart of the painter Picasso.

Stage Works

Stravinsky made an immediate impression in Paris with his score for *L'oiseau de feu* (The Firebird), for the Ballets Russes of Dyagilev. There followed the very Russian *Petrushka*, set in a Russian fair-ground, and the succès de scandale of *Le sacre du printemps* (The Rite of Spring). After works on a smaller scale in war-time, Stravinsky turned again to ballet for Dyagilev in *Pulcinella*, based on music wrongly attributed to Pergolesi. Later ballets include *Apollon musagète*, *Le Baiser de la fée*, *Jeu de cartes* and *Agon*. The Latin opera-oratorio, with a text translated from Cocteau, *Oedipus Rex* was first staged in 1928, while the opera *The Rake's Progress*, neo-classical in form and based on the engravings of Hogarth, with a libretto by W.H. Auden and Chester Kallman, was staged in Venice in 1951.

✓ *Recommended Recordings*

Firebird Suite; Petrushka Suite
Naxos 8.550263

The Rite of Spring; Jeu de cartes
Naxos 8.550472

Pulcinella; Danses concertantes
Naxos 8.553181

Orchestral Music

Stravinsky's orchestral music includes symphonies, suites from some of the ballets, and two suites arranged from sets of easy piano pieces. Concertos of various kinds include a 1936 Concerto for piano, wind, timpani and double basses, an Ebony Concerto for jazz band and a Violin Concerto.

Chamber Music

Stravinsky's chamber music includes some arrangements of orchestral works, in particular two versions of music from Pulcinella, one for violin and piano and a second for cello and piano, under the title Suite italienne.

✓ Recommended Recording

Music for Two Pianos; Sonata for Two Pianos; Concerto for Two Pianos;
The Rite of Spring
Naxos 8.553386

The Best of...

J. S. Bach	8.556656	Prokofiev	8.556681
Beethoven	8.556651	Puccini	8.556670
Berlioz	8.556678	Rachmaninov	8.556682
Bizet	8.556671	Ravel	8.556673
Brahms	8.556659	Rimsky-Korsakov	8.556674
Chopin	8.556654	Rossini	8.556683
Debussy	8.556663	Saint-Saëns	8.556675
Dvořák	8.556661	Schubert	8.556666
Elgar	8.556672	Schumann	8.556662
Fauré	8.556679	Shostakovich	8.556684
Grieg	8.556658	Sibelius	8.556677
Handel	8.556665	Johann Strauss II	8.556664
Haydn	8.556668	Stravinsky	8.556685
Liszt	8.556667	Tchaikovsky	8.556652
Mendelssohn	8.556660	Verdi	8.556669
Mozart	8.556653	Vivaldi	8.556655
Paganini	8.556680	Wagner	8.556657
		Weber	8.556676

Total Time
73:36

The Best of STRAVINSKY

(1882-1971)

8.556685

DDD

COMPACT
disc
DIGITAL AUDIO

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Pulcinella

- | | | |
|----------|-------------|------|
| 1 | - Overture | 2:05 |
| 2 | - Scherzino | 1:51 |
| 3 | - Allegro | 1:12 |
| 4 | - Andantino | 1:31 |
| 5 | - Allegro | 1:45 |

Bournemouth Sinfonietta /
Stefan Sanderling (from Naxos 8.553181)

L'Oiseau de feu (The Firebird)

- | | | |
|----------|-------------------------------------|------|
| 6 | - Round of the Princesses | 6:25 |
| 7 | - King Kastchei's Infernal
Dance | 4:42 |
| 8 | - Berceuse | 4:17 |
| 9 | - Finale | 3:27 |

BRT Philharmonic Orchestra (Brussels) /
Alexander Rahbari (from Naxos 8.550263)

L'Histoire du soldat (The Soldier's Tale)

- | | | |
|-----------|-----------------|------|
| 10 | - Marche royale | 2:43 |
| | - Trois danses: | |
| 11 | Tango | 2:10 |
| 12 | Valse | 1:56 |
| 13 | Ragtime | 2:08 |

Northern Chamber Orchestra /
Nicholas Ward (from Naxos 8.553662)

Petrushka

- | | | |
|-----------|------------------------|------|
| 14 | - The Shrove-tide Fair | 7:16 |
| 15 | - Russian Dance | 2:35 |
| 16 | - Petrushka | 4:33 |
| 17 | - The Blackamoor | 3:49 |

BRT Philharmonic Orchestra (Brussels) /
Alexander Rahbari (from Naxos 8.550263)

Le Sacre du printemps (The Rite of Spring)

- | | | |
|-----------|------------------------------------|-------|
| 18 | - Part 2: The Sacrifice | 18:53 |
| | Introduction | |
| | Mystical circle of the adolescents | |
| | Glorification of the Chosen One | |
| | Evocation of the ancestors | |
| | Ritual of the ancestors | |
| | Sacrificial dance (The Chosen One) | |

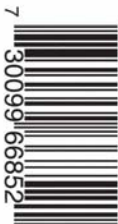
BRT Philharmonic Orchestra (Brussels) /
Alexander Rahbari (from Naxos 8.550472)

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