

French repertoire and Central European musical tradition masterfully combined

Lucerne Festival • Vol. XV



Dame Felicity Lott, soprano
Orchestre de la Suisse Romande
Armin Jordan, conductor

Debussy: *Prélude à l'après-midi d'un faune* • *Six épigraphes antiques*
 Roussel: Suite No. 2 from the ballet *Bacchus et Ariane*, Op. 43
 Chausson: *Poème de l'amour et de la mer*

Live recordings: *Kunsthaus Luzern*, August 27, 1988 • August 20, 1994

The performances of the Swiss conductor Armin Jordan are characterised by a soft, supple and richly colourful orchestral sound, flexibility and warmth. He was a master of French repertoire as well as the music tradition of Central Europe, combining both traditions in his very own musical thumbprint. Released here for the first time are live recordings made in Lucerne with the Orchestre de la Suisse Romande, which experienced a golden era under Jordan's leadership between 1985 and 1997.

He switched effortlessly between different musical spheres: the Swiss conductor Armin Jordan, who died in 2006, was a master of French repertoire as well as the musical tradition of Central Europe, combining both traditions in his very own musical thumbprint. Jordan's performances are characterised by a soft, supple and richly colourful orchestral sound, flexibility and warmth.

Released here for the first time are live recordings of his two only performances at LUCERNE FESTIVAL, given in 1988 and 1994 conducting the Orchestre de la Suisse Romande, which experienced a golden era under Jordan's leadership between 1985 and 1997.

This CD comprises Armin Jordan's "specials", such as Debussy's *Prélude à l'après-midi d'un faune* or the *Six épigraphes antiques* in orchestrations by Ansermet. In Chausson's *Poème de l'amour et de la mer* we meet Jordan the opera conductor, treasuring the fantastic Felicity Lott: here, the emotional component of the performance appears more intense than in the studio recording of 2001. In the second suite from Roussel's ballet *Bacchus et Ariane* Jordan also creates a thrilling sense of drama. He never had the opportunity to record this rarely performed piece in the studio: this live recording from Lucerne therefore fills a gap in his discography.

The 28-page booklet in three languages contains a portrait of the conductor by Peter Hagmann and features photos from the festival archive, published here for the first time.

In cooperation with audite, LUCERNE FESTIVAL presents the "Historic Performances" series featuring outstanding concert recordings of artists who have shaped the festival throughout its history. The aim of this CD edition is to rediscover treasures – most of which have not previously been released – from the first six decades of the festival, which was founded in 1938 with a special gala concert conducted by Arturo Toscanini. These recordings have been made available by the archives of SRF Swiss Radio and Television, which has broadcast the Lucerne concerts from the outset. Painstakingly re-mastered and supplemented with photos and materials from the LUCERNE FESTIVAL archive, they represent a sonic history of the festival.

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