Zoltán Kodály: Háry János Suite - Dances of Galánta & Marosszék (1999)

1. Galántai táncok (Dances of Galánta) 2. Táncnóta (Dancing song) 3. Marosszéki táncok (Dances of Marosszèk) - for orchestra 4. Gergely-járás (St. Gregory's day) Instrumental excerpts from the opera Háry János - from: version 1929 (Germany 1931
5. The flute playing Hussar 6. The old woman 7. The Jewish family 8. Háry riding Lucifer 9. The two gypsies 10. Túrót eszik a cigány (See the gypsies)
Háry János Suite
11. Prelude; the fairy tale begins 12. Viennese musical clock 13. Song 14. The battle and defeat of Napoleon 15. Intermezzo 16. Entrance of the emperor and his court
Children's Choir Magificat, Budapest Children's Choir Miraculum, Kecskemet Budapest Festival Orchestra Ivan Fischer - conductor

Kodály's music can be a lot of fun, and this disc is programmed for maximum entertainment value. The two sets of dances, which should be 20th-century Top 100 classical favorites, are about as entertaining as music is permitted to be, are the excerpts from the singspiel H&@225;ry János (which is Top 100, deservedly), the better- with the lesser-known music interspersed to excellent effect. Fischer adds to the mix three brief choral arrangements of Hungarian folk songs. The two children's choruses sing like angels, and the orchestra plays throughout with a tasty idiomatic quality, snapping the rhythms and emphasizing the imaginative color of the orchestration. If your collection isn't already overloaded with Kodály, this disc will be an excellent addition. ---Leslie Gerber, amazon.com

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