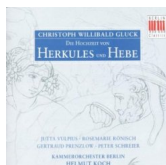


Gluck - The marriage of Hercules and Hebe (Koch) [2000]



1 - Le Nozze d'Ercole e d'Ebe, opera in 2 acts, Wq. 12: Sinfonia 2 - Le Nozze d'Ercole e d'Ebe, opera in 2 acts, Wq. 12: Rezitativ Hebe/Juno: Halte ein 3 - Le Nozze d'Ercole e d'Ebe, opera in 2 acts, Wq. 12: Aria Juno: Torheit istes stets 4 - Le Nozze d'Ercole e d'Ebe, opera in 2 acts, Wq. 12: Rezitativ Hebe: Ich glaube deinen Worten 5 - Le Nozze d'Ercole e d'Ebe, opera in 2 acts, Wq. 12: Aria Hebe: Willst du über den Ozean fahren 6 - Le Nozze d'Ercole e d'Ebe, opera in 2 acts, Wq. 12: Rezitativ Hebe/Herkules: Du wirst mich nicht bezwingen 7 - Le Nozze d'Ercole e d'Ebe, opera in 2 acts, Wq. 12: Duett Hebe/Herkules: Laß t mich in Frieden 8 - Le Nozze d'Ercole e d'Ebe, opera in 2 acts, Wq. 12: Rezitativ Hebe/Juno: Ach Mutter, was muß ich leiden 9 - Le Nozze d'Ercole e d'Ebe, opera in 2 acts, Wq. 12: Aria Herkules: Eurilla, wo bist du 10 - Le Nozze d'Ercole e d'Ebe, opera in 2 acts, Wq. 12: Rezitativ Hebe/Herkules: Allerschöbste Eurilla 11 - Le Nozze d'Ercole e d'Ebe, opera in 2 acts, Wq. 12: Aria Hebe: Holde Lust ein süß' Verlangen 12 - Le Nozze d'Ercole e d'Ebe, opera in 2 acts, Wq. 12: Rezitativ Juno/Herkules: O weh! Ich sehe Juno 13 - Le Nozze d'Ercole e d'Ebe, opera in 2 acts, Wq. 12: Aria Herkules: Zu große Wonne 14 - Le Nozze d'Ercole e d'Ebe, opera in 2 acts, Wq. 12: Rezitativ Juno/Jupiter/Herkules/Hebe: Was seh' ich 15 - Le Nozze d'Ercole e d'Ebe, opera in 2 acts, Wq. 12: Aria Jupiter: Ich will vor wilden Stürmen 16 - Le Nozze d'Ercole e d'Ebe, opera in 2 acts, Wq. 12: Rezitativ Juno: Wir sind am Ziele 17 - Le Nozze d'Ercole e d'Ebe, opera in 2 acts, Wq. 12: Herkules/Hebe/Juno/Jupiter: Zwietracht und Not sind zu Ende
Rosemarie Ronisch – soprano Jutta Vulpius – soprano Gertraud Prenzlów – contralto Peter Schreier – tenor Berlin Chamber Orchestra Helmut Koch – conductor

Gluck's "The Marriage of Hercules and Hebe" is the sort of chamber style opera, written on the occasion of a royal aristocratic wedding, with which Gluck lovers should be familiar. For those who cherish the relatively modest number of Gluck's works this is a good straw to grasp at and be happy. Berlin Classics does an extraordinary job of rescuing this performance from the mid 60's and making it sound both natural and as if it could have been recorded yesterday; the same difficult magic that they perform on other recordings ---Carl Martin, amazon.com

Composed quite early in Gluck's career--well before he came to fame as an important reformer of the operatic genre--'Le nozze d'Ercole e d'Ebe' (performed in German on this recording from 1964), is a representative sample of opera between the Baroque and Classical periods. Typical in its musical forms and in its function as aristocratic entertainment, this "opera-serenade" told an allegorical tale of the marriage of Hercules and Hebe, in celebration of a lavish royal wedding in 1747.

Gluck had already had some operatic success in London and Milan, and recycled some arias in conventional da capo form from earlier projects for this brief work. Of drama there is little, but the music is lovely and befitting the pastoral topic. The duets between the lovers, with both parts sung by sopranos, appealingly combine the two equal voices, and Jutta Vulpius as Hercules makes a strong impression. The lone male voice, that of Jupiter as sung by Peter Schreier, enters very near the end to bestow paternal benevolence over the proceedings. Overall, a worthwhile release, especially for listeners curious about the many works Gluck produced prior to his late Parisian masterpieces. ---arkivmusic.com

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