

MILHAUD

LE BOEUF SUR LE TOIT LA CRÉATION DU MONDE

ORCHESTRE DU THÉÂTRE DES CHAMPS-ÉLYSÉES
CONDUCTED BY DARIUS MILHAUD

1 Le Boeuf sur le toit, Op.58 (15:13)

La Création du monde, Op.81a

2 1 - Ouverture (3:58)

3 2 - Le chaos avant la création (1:41)

4 3 - La naissance de la flore et de la faune (2:56)

5 4 - La naissance de l'homme et de la femme (2:07)

6 5 - Le désir (4:17)

7 6 - Le printemps ou l'apaisement (1:36)

Recorded in stereo at the Théâtre des Champs-Élysées, Paris, 16, 18 and 19 March, 1958

Transfer and restoration by Dr. John Dufy

XR remastering by Andrew Rose at Pristine Audio, December 2008

Cover artwork based on a photograph of Darius Milhaud

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LA CRÉATION DU MONDE, OP. 81A
L'ORCHESTRE DU THÉÂTRE DES CHAMPS-ÉLYSÉES
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STEREO RECORDING, MARCH 1958

PRISTINE
AUDIO

PASC 137
STEREO

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COMPACT
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Darius Milhaud (September 4, 1892 – June 22, 1974) was a French composer and teacher. He was a member of Les Six - also known as the Groupe des Six - and one of the most prolific composers of the 20th century. His compositions are particularly noted as being influenced by jazz and for their use of polytonality (music in more than one key at once).

Born to a Jewish family in Aix-en-Provence, Milhaud studied in Paris at the Paris Conservatory where he met his fellow group members Arthur Honegger and Germaine Tailleferre. He studied composition under Charles Widor and harmony and counterpoint with André Gédalge. In addition he studied privately with Vincent d'Indy. As a young man he worked for a while in the diplomatic entourage of Paul Claudel, the eminent poet and dramatist, who was serving as ambassador to Brazil.

On a trip to the United States in 1922, Darius Milhaud heard "authentic" jazz for the first time, on the streets of Harlem, which left a great impact on his musical outlook. Using some jazz movements, the following year, he finished composing "*La création du monde*" ("The Creation of the World"), which was cast as a ballet in six continuous dance scenes.

He left France in 1939 and emigrated to America in 1940 (his Jewish background made it impossible for him to return to his native country until after the Liberation); he secured a teaching post at Mills College in Oakland, California. Legendary jazz pianist Dave Brubeck arguably became Milhaud's most famous student when Brubeck furthered his music studies at Mills College in the late 1940s (he named his eldest son Darius).

Milhaud (like his contemporaries Paul Hindemith, Gian Francesco Malipiero, Bohuslav Martin and Heitor Villa-Lobos) was an extremely rapid creator, for whom the art of writing music seemed almost as natural as breathing. His most popular works include *Le Boeuf sur le Toit* (ballet), *La création du monde* (a ballet for small orchestra with solo saxophone, influenced by jazz), *Scaramouche* (for Saxophone and Orchestra, also for two pianos), and *Saudades do Brasil* (dance suite). His autobiography is titled *Notes Sans Musique* (Notes Without Music), later revised as *Ma Vie Heureuse* (My Happy Life).

From 1947 to 1971 he taught alternate years at Mills and the Paris Conservatoire, until poor health, which caused him to use a wheelchair during his later years (beginning sometime before 1947), compelled him to retire. He died in Geneva, aged 81.

NOTES FROM WIKIPEDIA - FULL NOTES ON THIS RECORDING CAN BE FOUND AT WWW.PRISTINECLASSICAL.COM