

Intermezzo: The Intermezzo is an instrumental interlude that occurs between acts in the opera. It serves as a transition and features a melodic and expressive character.

Seguedille: The Seguedille is a vocal aria in the opera, sung by the character Carmen. In the suite, it is arranged as an instrumental piece, capturing the seductive and flirtatious nature of the original aria.

Les Dragons d'Alcala: This movement is a lively and rhythmic dance that reflects the military and Spanish influences in the opera. The title refers to the soldiers stationed in Alcala.

Les Toréadors (Final): "Les Toréadors" is the famous Toreador Song from Act 2 of Carmen. It is a rousing and triumphant piece associated with the character Escamillo, a toreador.

The Carmen Suite No. 1 is a vibrant and colorful orchestral work that brings together the diverse and passionate music found in Bizet's opera. It is often performed in concert settings and has become a popular and recognizable suite in the classical repertoire.



"Faust" by Charles Gounod is a grand opera that premiered in Paris on March 19, 1859. It is based on Johann Wolfgang von Goethe's play "Faust," and the libretto was written by Jules Barbier and Michel Carré. The opera tells the tragic story of Faust, an aging scholar who makes a pact with the devil, Mephistopheles, in exchange for youth and worldly pleasures.

Premiere: The opera premiered at the Théâtre Lyrique in Paris and was well-received, becoming one of Gounod's most celebrated works.

The story follows Faust's journey, his love for the innocent Marguerite (Gretchen), and the consequences of his pact with Mephistopheles. The narrative explores themes of love, temptation, and redemption.

"Faust" became one of the most performed operas worldwide and is considered a staple of the French operatic repertoire. Its popularity endures due to its memorable arias, compelling characters, and the timeless nature of the Faustian legend.

While primarily an opera, the "Walpurgis Night Ballet" in Act 5 has been adapted and performed separately as a

ballet. This lively and colorful ballet scene is a notable addition to the opera.

"Faust" remains an essential work in the operatic canon, appreciated for its beautiful music and powerful storytelling. It continues to be staged by opera companies around the world, and recordings of various productions are available for those interested in experiencing Gounod's masterpiece.

Georges Bizet's "Carmen Suite No. 1" is a compilation of instrumental pieces taken from his famous opera "Carmen." While Bizet did not create this suite himself, it was later arranged by other composers. The suite features some of the most well-known and memorable music from the opera. Here are the movements included in Carmen Suite No. 1:

Prelude: The Prelude to Carmen is an orchestral introduction that sets the mood for the opera. It is known for its dramatic and atmospheric qualities.

Aragonaise: This movement reflects Spanish influences and is characterized by lively and rhythmic dance elements. It captures the festive spirit of Aragon, a region in Spain.

GOUNOD "FAUST" BALLET MUSIC

BIZET "CARMEN" SUITE

ALEXANDER GIBSON

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE ORCHESTRA, COVENT GARDEN

Ballet Music From Faust

- 1 Waltz (Allegretto) 2:25
- 2 Ensemble (Adagio) 3:37
- 3 Dance Of The Nubians 1:31
- 4 Cleopatra's Dance 1:28
- 5 Dance Of The Trojan Maidens 2:24
- 6 Helen's Dance 1:39
- 7 Bacchanalia 2:44
- 8 Funeral March Of A Marionette 4:30

Carmen Suite

- 9 Prelude; Entr'acte-Aragonaise; Habanera;
Changing Of The Guard; Intermezzo; Smuggler's March;
Entr'acte-Dragoons Of Alcala 23:32

Producers: Ray Minshull - Michael Williamson Engineer: Kenneth Wilkinson

Faust Recorded 12-13 Feb 1959

Carmen Suite 7 Apr 1959 at Kingsway Hall by Decca/RCA



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