



L'Enfant et les Sortilèges

DESSIN DE C^{te}. BASTIEN, PARIS



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Maurice Ravel
Colette

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L'ENFANT ET LES SORTILÈGES

LORIN MAAZEL
ORCHESTRE NATIONAL DE PARIS

In 1914, the director of the Paris Opera, Jacques Rouché, commissioned a libretto from the writer Colette, who produced it in 1916. Ravel was quickly approached to write the music, but he showed himself – initially – not very enthusiastic about this project then entitled *Ballet pour ma fille*. After many discussions between Colette and Ravel, the project is taking shape little by little, but moving forward very slowly. It was not really until 1924 that Ravel immersed himself in the composition of the work, not finishing the writing until five days before the creation. This will not take place at the Paris Opera as initially planned (did Ravel's procrastination get the better of the director's patience?), But in Monte-Carlo, where *L'Enfant et les sortilèges* receives a very enthusiastic welcome. The work was performed the following year at the Opéra Comique in Paris.

Part 1: in the house

While he doesn't want to do his homework, the Child sticks his tongue out at Mom, who punishes him. In anger, the Child takes his anger out on the animals and objects around him ... but they come to life and

decide to revolt against the wicked Child. Then begins the ballet of spells imagined by Colette: the Armchair, the Sofa and the Shepherdess slip away; The Clock, whose balance is broken, mourns its despair; the Teapot and the Cup dance a ragtime; the fire of the chimney threatens him; the Shepherd and the Pastourelle of the torn curtain complain of their fate; a Princess from a fairy tale and an Elder from an arithmetic book explain their problems to him; a "meowed duo" of Cats does not let him sleep.

Part 2: in the garden

The Dragonfly, the Nightingale, the Tree Frogs (represented by onomatopoeias), the Owl, the Bat, the Trees, etc., complain in turn about the behavior of the Child, before meeting in chorus to decide on punish him. In the fight, the Squirrel is injured and the Child heals him. Moved by this beautiful gesture, trees and animals call Mum and accompany the Child to the house.

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1 Part One 24:33

2 Part Two 18:16

Choir - Choeur De La RTF, Maîtrise De La RTF

Chorus Master - René Alix Lyrics By - Colette

Performers - Camille Maurane, Colette Herzog, Françoise Ogéas, Heinz Rehfuss

Jeanne Berbié, Jeanine Collard, Michel Sénéchal, Sylvaine Gilma

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