

Classical CD Choice

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R. STRAUSS: DON JUAN, DEATH AND TRANSFIGURATION, TILL EULENSPIEGEL'S MERRY PRANKS, Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, Manfred Honeck/Reference Recordings SACD F707 The mastery of the orchestra which is the hallmark of Richard Strauss's achievement has been well served by the SACD medium, but this particular combination of three of the composer's greatest tone poems has not heretofore appeared together in surround sound, and it is a particular pleasure to enjoy this combination played with such dedication and verve by the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra under Manfred Honeck. Reference Recordings are, of course, celebrated for their nonpareil sound quality (courtesy of the legendary engineer Prof. Johnson), but it is a particular cause for celebration that they have chosen the super audio medium for this exhilarating disc. The company has also produced a shamelessly enjoyable Bizet programme by the San Francisco Ballet Orchestra under Martin West (RR-131).