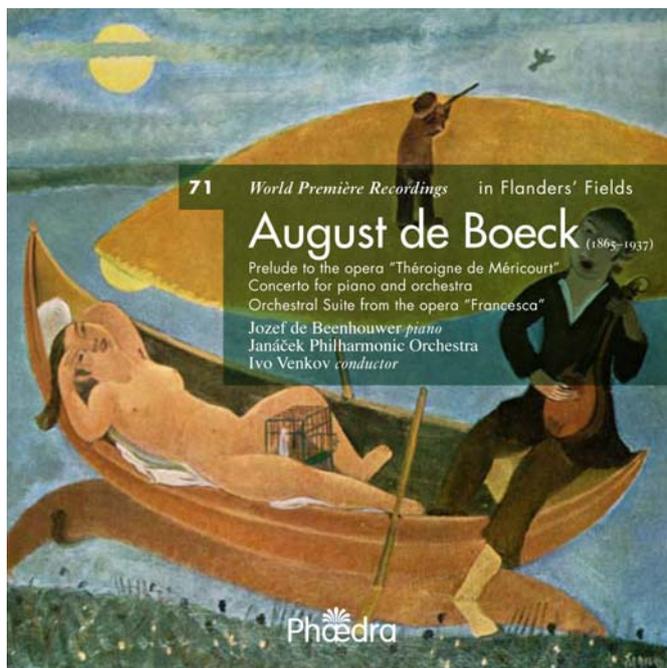


**August de Boeck (1865–1937)****World Première Recordings**

The suite from the opera *Francesca* finally rescues this accomplished musical drama by the late romantic Belgian composer August De Boeck from obscurity. His pianoconcerto is a highly original, fresh and effervescent, yet solidly constructed composition.



*Jozef de Beenhouwer, piano*  
*Janáček Philharmonic Orchestra, Ostrava*  
*Conductor: Ivo Venkov*

- |          |   |              |
|----------|---|--------------|
| <b>1</b> | <b>Prelude to the opera <i>Théroigne de Méricourt</i> (1900)</b>  | <b>04:59</b> |
|          | <b>Concerto for piano and orchestra (1926–1929)</b>   | <b>23:34</b> |
|          | <i>Transcription of the original solo part, intended for Hans Piano, for standard piano by Jozef de Beenhouwer (1982)</i> |              |
| <b>2</b> | <b>Moderato</b>   | 08:38        |
| <b>3</b> | <b>Scherzo: Presto</b>  | 06:27        |
| <b>4</b> | <b>Allegro</b>  | 08:26        |
|          | <b>Orchestral Suite from the opera <i>Francesca</i> (1913–1920)</b>   | <b>46:06</b> |
|          | <i>(La Route d'Émeraude) arranged by Frits Celis (2009)</i>   |              |
| <b>5</b> | <b>Roeping</b> (Calling   Vocation   Berufung)  | 08:31        |
| <b>6</b> | <b>Hartstocht</b> (Passion   Amour   Leidenschaft)  | 11:37        |
| <b>7</b> | <b>Wanhoop</b> (Despair   Souffrance   Verzweiflung)  | 12:57        |
| <b>8</b> | <b>Loutering</b> (Catharsis   Rédemption   Läuterung)   | 12:52        |

**TT: 74:57**

**Recording:** Concert Hall of the Janáček Philharmonic Orchestra  
Ostrava (Czech Republic)  
June 15–18, 2011

**Recording supervisor:** Jaroslav Stráňavský

**Digital editing:** Jaroslav Stráňavský – [www.musicmaster.sk](http://www.musicmaster.sk)

**Piano:** Steinway D

You can watch part of the rehearsal in Ostrava (Czech Republic) on:

<http://www.musicmaster.sk/musik-von-august-de-boeck-.phtml?id3=65365>  
<http://www.youtube.com/user/stranavsky1?feature=mhee#p/search/0/epHuF7Jo-4g>

The Janáček Philharmonic Orchestra is one of the Czech Republic's most prominent orchestras. This is their second recording to appear on Phaedra; their first, *In Flanders' Fields* vol. 67, was issued in 2010 and contained music by Jef van Hoof.

Maestro Ivo Venkov won a First Prize at the 2nd International Conductors' Competition Sir Georg Solti in Frankfurt in 2004 and is at present professor of orchestral conducting at the Royal Flemish Conservatory of Antwerpen. Since 1988 he has conducted the Antwerp *Youth and Music Orchestra*, which he has taken on several tours in Europe and even further afield.



Jozef De Beenhouwer was awarded the 1993 Robert Schumann Prize of the city of Zwickau (Germany). In 2010, he received the Lifetime Achievement Award of Klara, the classical music channel of the 'Vlaamse Radio- en Televisieomroep - VRT'.

At present Jozef De Beenhouwer is a professor at the Royal Flemish Conservatory of Antwerp and also artistic director of the Brussels Lunchtime Concerts. He is regularly invited to sit in the juries of international piano competitions.

#### What a critic said about this CD:

Professor Michaël Scheck, honorary director of the Royal Flemish Conservatory of Antwerp and Head of the Study Center of Flemish Music, sent us an e-mail on October 15, in which he wrote:

*... In conclusion I would like to say that this is one of your very best productions in this genre. Jozef [de Beenhouwer] once more proves what a master of the piano he is, and the playing of the orchestra, conducted with by Ivo [Venkov] with great feeling and with a sure hand, is of the highest level.*

*Unquestionably De Boeck is an accomplished symphonic composer. His music is expansive and packed with emotion, but it is so interesting and colorful that it is not tiring at all. The idea of extracting a suite from Francesca was an excellent one, and Frits [Celis] succeeded exceedingly well. It is a way to grant the score of the opera a second and hopefully immortal life.*

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