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During the Belle Époque, Jules Massenet rose to become France's leading composer of opera, as notable for his acute dramatic sense as for the refined sensuality of his music. Encompassing three decades of his career, and settings as diverse as Biblical Judea and the Paris of Massenet's time, the seven operas in this box range from the enduringly popular *Manon* and *Werther* through works occasionally revived for star singers (*Thaïs* and *Don Quichotte*) to three fascinating rarities (*Hérodiade*, *Le Jongleur de Notre Dame* and *Sapho*). They represent nearly 40 years of recording history and feature a host of celebrated singers and conductors from France and around the world.

JULES MASSENET 1842-1912

- CD 1-3 Hérodiade (1881)
 Cheryl Studer · Nadine Denize · Ben Heppner · Thomas Hampson
 Orchestre National du Capitole de Toulouse · Michel Plasson
- CD 4-6 Manon* (1884)
 Victoria de los Angeles · Henri Legay · Michel Dens
 Orchestre du Théâtre National de l'Opéra-Comique · Pierre Monteux
- CD 7-8 Werther (1892)
 Nicolai Gedda · Victoria de los Angeles · Mady Mesplé · Roger Soyer
 Orchestre de Paris · Georges Prêtre
- CD 9-10 Thaïs (1894)

 Beverly Sills · Sherrill Milnes · Nicolai Gedda

 New Philharmonia Orchestra · Lorin Maazel
- CD 11-12 Sapho (1897)
 Renée Doria Ginès Sirera Gisèle Ory
 Orchestre National de l'Opéra de Monte-Carlo Roger Boutry
- CD 13-14 Le Jongleur de Notre-Dame (1902)
 Alain Vanzo · Jules Bastin · Marc Vento
 Orchestre Symphonique de la Garde Républicaine · Roger Boutry
- CD 15-16 Don Quichotte (1910)

 José van Dam · Teresa Berganza · Alain Fondary

 Orchestre National du Capitole de Toulouse · Michel Plasson