

# WARNER CLASSICS RELEASES A NEW 23-CD BOXSET OF JACQUELINE DU PRÉ RECORDINGS

- Jacqueline du Pré: The Complete Warner Recordings released 3 June 2022
- The newly remastered set includes a previously unreleased recording of Brahms' Clarinet Trio in A minor



## "I've been blessed with a god-given talent and it's my privilege to share it with my friends."

In the course of a dazzling career, cruelly curtailed by illness, Oxford-born cellist Jacqueline du Pré shared her transcendent and seemingly instinctive musicianship with the world. Her epoch-making interpretation of the Elgar Cello Concerto – conducted by Sir John Barbirolli, a former cellist who performed under Elgar's baton – was recorded 57 years ago, when du Pré was just 20. It remains a reference for today's cellists and audiences. As Gramophone wrote when the LP was first released: "Not only is every phrase eloquent, so is every single note ... I need say no more than that this is on no account to be missed."

The Elgar Concerto is just one of the many highlights of **Jacqueline du Pré: The Complete Warner Recordings**, a new 23CD box set from Warner Classics released on 23 June 2022. The boxset contains the full eleven years of du Pré's renowned recording history with EMI Classics, Warner Classics' predecessor.

Embracing works for cello with orchestra, with piano and harpsichord, and the chamber repertoire, the set bears witness to du Pré's collaborations with such musicians as her husband Daniel Barenboim (as both pianist and conductor), conductors Sir Adrian Boult and Sir Malcolm Sargent, pianists Stephen Kovacevich and Gerald Moore, and instrumentalists Pinchas Zukerman, John Williams, William Pleeth (her cello teacher), Gervase de Peyer and Osian Ellis.

All the recordings have been newly remastered in 192Hz/24 bit from the original EMI tapes, and by mid-June 2022 du Pré's entire Warner catalogue will also be available in high-definition digital format, with five albums presented in Dolby Atmos immersive sound.

The earliest recording dates from 1961, when the sixteen-year-old du Pré played a breakthrough recital at Wigmore Hall; the latest was made in 1972, shortly before her performing career came to its tragically premature end. The repertoire ranges from the Baroque – Bach, Handel, and Couperin – to Britten by way of, among others, Haydn, Beethoven, Schumann, Chopin, Brahms, Bruch, Strauss, Lalo, Saint-Saëns, Tchaikovsky, Dvořák, Delius, and Falla.

Previously unreleased is a recording of Brahms' Clarinet Trio in A minor op 114, in which du Pré is joined by Gervase de Peyer and Daniel Barenboim. It was originally the audio track of a film made at Abbey Road Studios in 1968 by Christopher Nupen, who directed both *Remembering Jacqueline du Pré* (1994) and the famous 1969 film *The Trout*, centred on Schubert's 'Trout' Quintet and memorably aligning du Pré with Barenboim, Itzhak Perlman, Pinchas Zukerman, and Zubin Mehta.

The set also brings a new edit of a major recording first released in 1995, eight years after du Pré's death at the age of just 42. It further enhances a pioneering reconstruction of her interpretation of Strauss' *Don Quixote*. In 1968, sessions were scheduled at Abbey Road Studios with veteran conductor Otto Klemperer, but he withdrew from the project soon after work on the recording had started. Another distinguished conductor, Sir Adrian Boult, was engaged to replace him for an imminent concert performance of *Don Quixote* at London's Royal Festival Hall. When du Pré, Boult, and the New Philharmonia Orchestra played a complete run-through of the work at Abbey Road, someone had the bright idea of switching on the microphones and tape recorder shortly after the music started. In the 1990s the British producer Andrew Keener skillfully patched in several short excerpts from takes recorded with Klemperer to produce a complete performance of *Don Quixote*, a work which lasts some 40 minutes. Now, thanks to the complementary expertise of the French company Art & Son Studio, it can be enjoyed with even greater immediacy.

Three years after that *Don Quixote*, du Pré began to show symptoms of multiple sclerosis, the degenerative disease that forced her into retirement. Even when she was no longer able to play, she retained her innate optimism and generosity of spirit and transmitted her passion for music through teaching. Paying tribute to du Pré, the great violinist Itzhak Perlman, her colleague, and friend, has said: "I always imagine a shooting star shining brightly in the night for an instant and then disappearing ... Her ability to communicate her art to her audience was uncanny. Personally, I was affected by the sheer freedom and abandon that her playing possessed .... Her star will always shine".

The 23-CD boxset will be released 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2022. The entire set will also be available digitally by 17 June 2022, with five albums available in Dolby Atmos.

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## Editor's Notes:

## Tracklisting:

## **CD 1 – Her Early BBC Recordings, Vol. 1** BACH Cello Suites Nos. 1 & 2

BRITTEN Cello Sonata FALLA Suite Populaire espagnole

# CD 2 – Her Early BBC Recordings, Vol. 2

BRAHMS Cello Sonata No. 2 COUPERIN Les Goûts rénuis HANDEL Sonata HWV 287

# CD 3 – Music for Viola

HANDEL VAUGHAN WILLIAMS CUI BRAHMS BACH **Music for Cello** BACH SAINT-SAËNS FALLA BRUCH

CD 4 – A Jaqueline du Pré Recital Solo Instruments of the Orchestra, No. 3 A Tribute to Gerald Moore: PARADIS SCHUMANN MENDELSSOHN

## CD 5

DELIUS Songs of Farewell DELIUS A Song before Sunrise DELIUS Cello Concerto

CD 6 ELGAR Cello Concerto ELGAR Sea Pictures

CD 7 BEETHOVEN Cello Sonatas Nos. 3 & 5

CD 8 HAYDN Cello Concerto No. 1 BOCCHERINI Cello Concerto No. 9

CD 9 HAYDN Cello Concerto No. 2 MONN Cello Concerto

CD 10 SCHUMANN Cello Concerto SAINT-SAËNS Cello Concerto No. 1

CD 11 BRAHMS Cello Sonatas Nos. 1 & 2 BRUCH Kol Nidrei

CD 12 R. STRAUSS Don Quixote LALO Cello Concerto

CD 13 BRAHMS Cello Sonatas Nos. 1 & 2

**CD 14** BRAHMS Clarinet Trio [FIRST RELEASE – PREVIOUSLY UNPUBLISHED] SAINT-SAËNS Cello Concerto No. 1

CD 15 BEETHOVEN Piano Trios Nos. 1 & 2

CD 16 BEETHOVEN Piano Trios Nos. 3, 4 'Gassenhauer' & 5 'Ghost'

CD 17

BEETHOVEN Piano Trios Nos. 6 & 7, 'Archduke'

CD 18

BEETHOVEN Piano Trios WoO 38, WoO 39, and Hess 48 - Variations Opp. 44 and 121a

CD 19 BEETHOVEN Cello Sonatas Nos. 1-3

**CD 20** BEETHOVEN Cello Sonatas Nos. 4 & 5 – Variations for Cello & Piano

CD 21 DVORAK Cello Concerto DVORAK Silent Woods

CD 22 CHOPIN Cello Sonata FRANCK Cello Sonata

**CD 23** TCHAIKOVSKY Piano Trio

RECORDINGS FROM 1961-1975 NEWLY (EXCEPT CD 6 & 9: 2020) REMASTERED IN 192KHZ/24-BIT BY ART & SON STUDIO, ANNECY

## Jacqueline du Pré

The tragedy of du Pré's brief career is still fresh in the public memory and can be summarised here. She was born in Oxford on 26 January 1945 into a middle-class family in which music was important: her mother was a fine pianist and a gifted teacher. The French-sounding name came from her father's Channel Islands ancestry. Just before her fifth birthday, when she was already showing musical promise, she heard the sound of a cello on the radio and the course of her life was set. She studied at Herbert Walenn's London Violoncello School and at ten became a pupil of William Pleeth, who had himself studied with Julius Klengel. Pleeth played with a good deal of uninhibited body movement and passed this trait on to du Pré, whose total physical involvement in her playing was to endear her to audiences. She made a successful London recital début in 1961, studied with Casals in Switzerland, Tortelier in Paris, and Rostropovich in Moscow with varying degrees of success – one wonders what these players could have taught such a natural musician – and gradually consolidated her reputation at home. She began recording for EMI in 1962 and by 1965, when her famous disc of the Elgar Concerto was made, she was a star. That year she made her American début and in 1967 she married the pianist and conductor Daniel Barenboim.

In July 1971, when she should have been at her peak, she began suffering seriously from a mysterious ailment that had already intermittently affected her playing. Eventually, multiple sclerosis was diagnosed, and, after a cruel series of remissions and relapses typical of that illness, in 1973 she retired. Gradually her health deteriorated, and she died in London on 19 October 1987.

https://www.warnerclassics.com/artist/jacqueline-du-pre

#### Warner Classics

Based in Paris, Warner Classics and its sister label Erato together comprise one of the world's leading global classical music recording companies, with an artist roster covering all genres of classical music. It is home to the fabulous classical music catalogues from EMI Classics, Virgin Classics, Teldec, and Erato, featuring many iconic albums which have made history in the world of the record industry. The company boasts an unrivaled catalogue of legendary artists – Maria Callas, Herbert von Karajan, Wilhelm Furtwängler, Yehudi Menuhin, Mstislav Rostropovich, Maurice André, Jacqueline du Pré, Otto Klemperer, Samson François – and of international superstars such as Itzhak Perlman, Daniel Barenboim, Nigel

Kennedy, Hélène Grimaud, Natalie Dessay... amongst many others.

Today, the labels exclusively record acclaimed artists such as Sir Antonio Pappano, Piotr Anderszewski, Alison Balsom, Renaud Capuçon, Gautier Capuçon, Joyce DiDonato, Philippe Jaroussky, Bertrand Chamayou, Alexandre Tharaud, the Quatuor Ébène, Beatrice Rana, Elisabeth Leonskaja, Emmanuel Pahud, Vilde Frang and Augustin Hadelich. They nurture upcoming talents such as Jakub Józef Orliński, Fatma Said, Marianne Crebassa, Lea Desandre, Sabine Devieilhe, Lucienne Renaudin Vary, Jean Rondeau, Yoav Levanon and pushing genre boundaries, the labels explore new horizons with modern classical artists such as RIOPY, Matteo Myderwyk, Carlos Cipa, and Abel Seloacoe.

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