

Mp3 Clarinetist Michele Zukovsky - Los Angeles Philharmonic Chamber - A Soldiers Tale With John Houseman

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Narrated by legendary actor John Houseman and featuring Los Angeles Philharmonic Chamber Musicians live at the 92nd St. in NYC, this was John Houseman's last performance before his death. 11 MP3 Songs CLASSICAL: Orchestral, CLASSICAL: Contemporary Details: The story of Faust, the man who sold his soul to the devil in exchange for riches, power, youth wisdom - the legend takes various forms - strikes resonances in every heart. Underlying it is the Biblical text, "What shall it profit a man if he gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?" In real life, it is not so much a matter of gaining "the whole world" as of the day-to-day decisions when we are tempted to compromise between ideals and ease or expediency - to do something that instinct says is not quite right for the sake of quick reward. Stravinsky's lifelike Faust - the Soldier in 'The Soldier's Tale' - is closer to our everyday experience than the heroic Faust of Marlowe and Goethe. He is not vastly ambitious. He is not faced with one tremendous decision - to barter his fiddle, to have a go at winning the 'Princess', to gamble away his remaining cash, to cross a forbidden frontier and see his mother again - almost casually. He gets good advice (Narrator) and gets bad advice (Devil). He gets cheated. It seems almost unfair that, at the end, the Devil wins.

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