



LSO Live

Verdi Falstaff Sir Colin Davis London Symphony Orchestra

Michele Pertusi Sir John Falstaff
Carlos Alvarez Ford
Bülent Bezdüz Fenton
Alasdair Elliott Dr Caius
Peter Hoare Bardolfo
Darren Jeffrey Pistola
Ana Ibarra Alice Ford
Maria José Moreno Nannetta
Jane Henschel Mistress Quickly
Marina Domashenko Meg Page
London Symphony Chorus

Availability

Released November 2004 (UK release date)
2CD LSO0055 (822231105527) – UK srp £9.99
2hybrid-SACD LSO0528 (822231102823) – UK srp £12.99
download from all good digital music stores

Description

Following his acclaimed recording of Britten's Peter Grimes, Sir Colin Davis and the LSO are joined by a magnificent cast led by Michele Pertusi for a spectacular performance of Verdi's comic masterpiece.

Recorded during the LSO's centenary celebrations in 2004, Falstaff is without doubt one of LSO Live's finest releases to date.

CD/SACD Reviews

Winner of the Best Opera Grammy Award
48th Annual Grammy Awards, February 2006

'The LSO play with an extraordinary feel for the work's drama and comedy and the singers enter the spirit of the work with great abandon. It's as though a spirit of fun is in the air, breathed in by everyone ... And some, perhaps most, of this must emanate from the maestro who has every right to take pride in a brilliant achievement. ... Pertusi is Falstaff through and through'

Editor's Choice

Gramophone Magazine, November 2004

'If it wasn't obvious before, then it is now. The LSO Live label is the recording phenomenon of the decade. Here's a conductor at the height of his powers with an orchestra on top form, here's singing so exciting it would make a piece of sandpaper moist, here's the crackling energy of a live performance captured brilliantly. Pertusi is simply stunning as the Fat Knight - bombastic, arrogant and yet touchingly vulnerable too. A must-hear'

Classic FM Magazine, November 2004

'Another triumph for the LSO Live label'

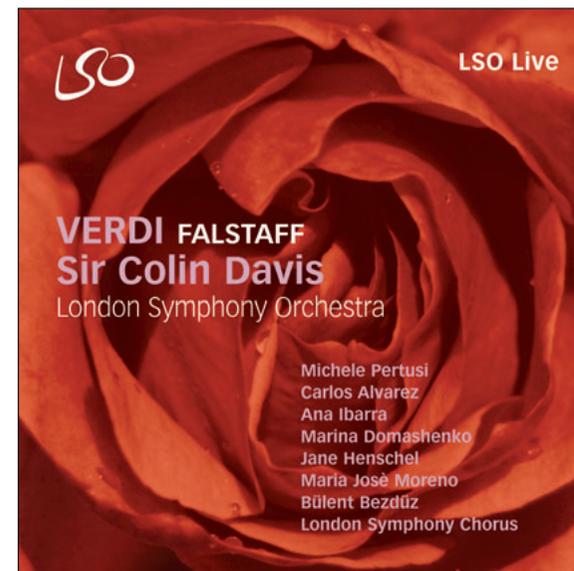
CD of the Week

BBC Radio 3 CD Review, 27 November 2004

'This is a feast ... one to set beside their Trojans as a monument to the partnership between Davis and the orchestra. Their playing has an energy, finesse and sense of delight in the ever-amazing score that is intoxicating. Davis, always a great Falstaff interpreter, surpasses himself. Michele Pertusi, the excellent Falstaff ... Ana Ibarra's Alice and Carlos Alvarez's Ford are outstanding'

The Sunday Times (UK), 10 October 2004

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Recording information

James Mallinson producer
Neil Hutchinson and **Jonathan Stokes** for
Classic Sound Ltd balance engineers

A high density DSD recording, live at the Barbican Centre on 17–23 May 2004

Total playing time 118m39

98 page book with notes in English, French and German plus libretto in Italian with English translation. Sung in Italian

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'the most exhilarating account of the opera, with Davis conducting the LSO and an outstanding cast. Davis springs rhythms infectiously, bringing out the wit in this magical score, as well as the dramatic contrasts, with tender Verdian lyricism. Davis is masterly, too, in timing the climaxes. The recording helps, with voices cleanly separated, so that though this was taken from concert performances, the sense of live drama is irresistible. Pertusi is brilliant in the title-role, bluff and powerful, with his voice cleanly focused over the widest expressive range - now biting, now soothing, now full of fun. Carlos Alvarez as Ford is nicely contrasted, his dark anger coming over powerfully in his second-act monologue. And Ana Ibarra as Alice Ford leads a superb team of women soloists, phenomenally precise in their chattering ensembles. Above all, the liveness of the experience adds to the electricity ... An astonishing bargain, with libretto and translation included in the booklet, as well as a thoughtful essay by Rodney Milnes'
The Guardian (UK), 8 October 2004

'Hard on the heels of their magnificent Peter Grimes, Sir Colin Davis and the LSO unite with a fine array of soloists to bring all the requisite wit, sparkle and poignancy to Verdi's Shakespearean masterpiece. Pertusi is outstanding in the title role ... this rates as one of LSO Live's finest releases to date, even by the in-house label's own high standards'
The Observer (UK), 10 October 2004

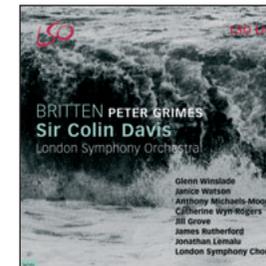
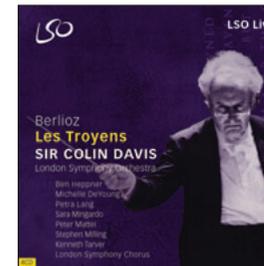
'an absolute gem ... equaling the best on the market. Colin Davis gets such well-articulated playing from the LSO that students of orchestral writing could actually learn from listening ... the women are wonderful. As the madly jealous Ford, baritone Carlos Alvarez almost walks away with the show. It doesn't hurt that he has the longest and most dramatic aria in the piece, which is sung and nuanced perfectly. Listening to his hysteria mount is a real delight. Pertusi's a terrific, smart, colorful Falstaff. And this is a terrific, smart, colorful "Falstaff", captured with great sonic impact and immediacy'

Artistic Quality 10 Sound Quality 10

ClassicsToday.com, 14 October 2004

'Ana Ibarra makes the formidable figure of Alice Ford spring to life, and the two young lovers are wonderfully sung by Bülent Bezdüz and María José Moreno. The singer who almost steals the show is Carlos Álvarez as the cuckolded husband Ford. The orchestral sound is a marvel, being vivacious, full-blooded and tender all at once'
The Times (UK), 9 October 2004

'another classic Davis ensemble performance, with yet another Italian crucially cast in the title-role ... it's unbeatable'
International Record Review, November 2004



Also available

Berlioz Les Troyens – Sir Colin Davis

Ben Heppner, Michelle DeYoung, Petra Lang
4CD LSO0010

Britten Peter Grimes – Sir Colin Davis

Glenn Winslade, Janice Watson, Anthony Michaels-Moore
3CD LSO0054

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