

### **Classiques français**

The Saxon Wind Philharmonic, which started broadcasting light classics on Leipzig Radio in the late 1940s, has made a long list of recordings and sounds first-rate in everything it plays. In Dukas's Fanfare to La Peri, the colorful chords are beautifully balanced and tuned. I especially enjoy the ending, where we Americans tend to accent (as marked in the score) and detach the last few chords; this ensemble connects and makes them smooth and lyrical. In Carmen Suite, the various pieces sound the way we expect to hear them, but what stands out to me is the dusky tone and perfect unison between trumpet and clarinet in the 'Habanera' melody. Principal trumpet Sven Geipel is the very tasteful soloist in Jean Francaix's frothy little Gay Paris, which consists of a March, Waltz, and Galop. The accounts of the two Ravel pieces are excellent.

*Barry Kilpatrick*

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