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Berlioz: *Roméo et Juliette*



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*Dedicated without permission but in heartfelt gratitude to the conductors
whose live performances of 'Roméo et Juliette' ring in the memory:*

*Colin Davis
David Lloyd-Jones
Roger Norrington*

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et enfin permettez-moi de prononcer, puisque'il s'agit d'influence, le nom de mon auteur favori, pour moi du plus grand de tous les musiciens. Je veux parler de Hector Berlioz. Je suis un des rares musiciens français à reconnaître le plus grand musicien français, et à aimer Hector Berlioz, non seulement pour *La Damnation de Faust*, la *Symphonie fantastique*, mais pour son oeuvre le plus génial: je veux parler de *Roméo et Juliette*.

Olivier Messiaen

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Abbreviations and acknowledgements

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- CG* *Correspondance générale de Hector Berlioz*: references are to the number of the letter cited followed by the volume and page number, thus *CG* 655 (II, p. 562).
- Holoman, *Catalogue* D. Kern Holoman, *Catalogue of the Works of Hector Berlioz*.
- Mémoires* Berlioz, *Mémoires d'Hector Berlioz*: references are made to chapters so that the passage can be traced whichever edition is consulted.
- Memoirs* D. Cairns (editor and translator), *The Memoirs of Hector Berlioz*.
- NBE* New Berlioz Edition, general editor Hugh Macdonald (Kassel: Bärenreiter, 1969–): reference is made to individual volumes but *NBE* by itself refers to Vol. 18, *Roméo et Juliette*, edited by D. Kern Holoman (published 1990).

All translations are mine unless specifically acknowledged, but in rendering excerpts from Berlioz's *Mémoires* I acknowledge the universal debt to David Cairns's version.

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