



A beautiful, superbly integrated work...*La Belle et la Bete* is Glass's best work in years."

— Time Magazine

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LA BELLE ET LA BETE

Philip Glass Ensemble

Music Philip Glass // Film Jean Cocteau
Conductor Michael Riesman
Vocalists Hai-Ting Chinn, Marie Mascari, Gregory Purnhagen
& Peter Stewart

One of the most spellbinding films of the silver screen is reimagined on stage alongside an original music score by Philip Glass, one of the greatest living composers of the late 20th century, with the Australian exclusive performance of *La Belle et la Bête*.

Jean Cocteau stands as one of last century's grand virtuoso of cinematic illusion, and his 1954 film adaptation of the classic *Beauty and the Beast* is an opalescent ode to the transformative powers of love and art. **Philip Glass** first saw one of Cocteau's films in Paris the same year *Belle* was released. He was 17, studying French and the Paris he saw was the Paris of Cocteau.

In a nod across history from one master to another, **Phillip Glass** has worked his own alchemical magic around this shimmering spectacle. The second part of a Cocteau trilogy that began with *Orphée* (a staged opera that uses his screenplay as a libretto) and ended with *Les Enfants Terribles* (an opera for dancers and singers), this long awaited revival of *Belle* will showcase Glass's revolutionary approach to music theatre and the influence of a truly great filmmaker.

The modern maestro has removed the film's dialogue track and original musical score by composer Georges Auric and replaced it with his own scintillating music, sung by four singers onstage whose voices appear to be in complete synchronization with the onscreen characters. When performed live by the **Phillip Glass Ensemble**, the result transcends art forms to create a new experience of sound and cinema.

A sophisticated work that is at once a touching fairy tale and meditation on creativity, Cocteau's captivating storytelling is matched by some of Glass's most evocative music in an unforgettable tale of love triumphing over greed.

Philip Glass is an Oscar-nominated American composer, widely regarded as one of the world's most influential music makers. He has written more than 26 operas and nearly 50 film scores with notable works including *Einstein on the Beach* which featured in the 1992 Melbourne Festival, *The Hours* and *Notes on a Scandal*.

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Through his compositions for his own ensemble – a small amplified chamber group formed in the early 1970s devoted to performing his works worldwide - and his wide-ranging collaborations with artists ranging from Twyla Tharp to Allen Ginsberg, Woody Allen to David Bowie, Philip Glass has had an extraordinary and unprecedented impact upon the musical and intellectual life of his times.

One of the most unique, challenging and celebrated works of his career, Philip Glass's *La Belle et la Bête* will undoubtedly be one of Melbourne's most revered contemporary classical music concerts of 2016.

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