

## Patricia Petibon - French Touch (2005)

Written by bluesever

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01 Roméo et Juliette / Act 1: "Ah, je veux vivre" 3:31 02 Fortunio: L'orsque j'étais enfant 2:15 03 L'Amour masqué - operetta: J'ai deux amants 3:08 04 Les filles de Cadix - original version 5:17 05 Lakmé / Act 1: Viens, Mallika, ... Dôme épais (Flower Duet) 5:40 06 Lakmé / Act 2: Où va la jeune Indoue (Bell song) 6:14 07 Manon / Act 2: Adieu, notre petite table 2:18 [play](#) 08 Manon / Act 3: Je marche sur les chemins 5:24 09 Cendrillon - opera in 4 acts / Act 1: Ah! douce enfant, ta plainte légère (Air de la fée) 8:34 10 Les Contes d'Hoffmann / Act 2: "Les oiseaux dans la charmille" 6:40 11 Les Contes d'Hoffmann / Act 4: Entr'acte (Barcarolle) - "Messieurs, silence!" - "Belle nuit, ô nuit d'amour" 3:33 12 L'Etoile: Romance de l'étoile 3:50 13 L'Etoile: Enfin je me sens mieux (Couplets de Lazuli) 1:28 [play](#)  
Patricia Petibon – soprano Orchestre De L'Opera National De Lyon Yves Abel – conductor

Just before the CD stops she smothers us with sloppy kisses, and that is not even the most weird part of this exceedingly strange and extremely fascinating collection of French opera arias, sung, bubbled, gurgled and I know what not by opera's answer to pop music's Björk. It's going to take a while for me to tire of her, I think, but when I do I'm probably going to hate her, she's that kind of idiosyncratic performer. Coloratura soprano Petibon is so decidedly Gallic and she firmly believes that anything is allowed, that you OWN the music if you're musical enough, and if you love the music enough. Never has the world heard an Olympia doll like hers from 'Contes Hoffmann', cascading, beeping like something out of Microsoft, gurglin, cooing and just plain camping it up!

But is it allowed?, you might ask timidly. Let's just say that it would be stifling to try to fence in the vivacious Miss Petibon. Just listen to Lady Eversharp's wacky couplets from Reynaldo Hahn's 'Brummel', sung in a thick Midwestern US accent, including notes that are positively and hilariously flat!

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But oh, can she do the 'serious' stuff as well. Here she sings 'Je veux vivre' with bubbly classical joi-de-vivre from Gounod's 'Romeo & Juliet', a very touching 'Adieu, petite table' from Massenet's 'Manon', an exuberant Echo Aria from Delibes' 'Lakmé'! What a wonderful recording, but beware - you might not warm to it at all, if you have a puritan streak in you.  
---Michael Bo (Frederiksberg Denmark)

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