



## Large Clock Mythological "eurydice And The Serpent" - Clockmaker: Cailly, Circa 1840



1 550 EUR

Period : 19th century

Condition : Restauré par notre atelier

Material : Bronze

Width : 39 cm

Height : 55 cm

Depth : 13 cm

### Description

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A magnificent mythological mantel clock dating from the Louis-Philippe period, circa 1840, distinguished by the exquisite finesse of its chasing and the brilliant lustre of its mercury gilding with gold. The composition depicts an elegant nymph from classical mythology, whose sculptural grace and melancholy demeanour lend the piece a particularly expressive presence. The movement bears the signature of Cailly, engraved inside the movement plate.

This clockmaker is listed in the Tardy Dictionary of Clockmakers under the year 1840, providing a valuable element of identification for this horological work of art.

The composition is dominated by a young woman

### Dealer

#### Clock Prestige

Clockmaker specialised in 18th & 19th Century antique clocks and objects.

Mobile : 06-86-90-03-27

Lyon 69003

of idealised beauty, draped in classical robes whose flowing folds are sculpted with remarkable skill and delicacy. Seated in an attitude that is both graceful and dramatic, she tilts her head towards the heavens, while her half-closed eyes and slightly parted lips appear to convey distress and surrender. A finely chased serpent coils around her ankle, an essential attribute in identifying the mythological scene as that of Eurydice, the wife of Orpheus. According to the ancient legend, Eurydice is bitten by a serpent and succumbs to her injury while fleeing from Aristaeus on her wedding day. Inconsolable, Orpheus enchants the gods with his singing and lyre, obtaining permission to descend into the Underworld in an attempt to bring his wife back among the living. The sculpture sensitively captures this tragic episode, in which feminine beauty confronts the inexorable force of fate. The figure rests upon a gilt-bronze architectural base, adorned with rich chased ornamentation and friezes inspired by the Neoclassical style. At the centre, the circular silvered-bronze dial, featuring Roman numerals, is harmoniously integrated into a finely worked ornamental surround. The front of the base is embellished with an elegant lyre motif framed by scrolling foliage, directly evoking the musical world of Orpheus. A palmette frieze and richly ornamented feet complete this composition of remarkable decorative coherence. By virtue of its outstanding craftsmanship, sumptuous gilding and evocative subject matter, this mantel clock stands as a remarkable testament to the French decorative arts of the Restoration period. The combination of an exceptionally expressive figural sculpture and a horological structure defined by balanced lines gives the piece a character that is both monumental and refined. The serpent, the delicately sculpted drapery and the allusion to the lyre of Orpheus come together to create a poetic mythological composition that transcends its purely horological function. The signature of Cailly aîné, found on the movement plate, further enhances the historical and

documentary interest of this piece. An authentic decorative object steeped in history, this clock will appeal to collectors of antique clocks, gilt-bronze objects and enthusiasts of classical mythology alike, thanks to its timeless elegance and unmistakable sculptural presence.

Original movement, intact and unmodified, with a suspension spring. Strikes the hours and half-hours on an antique bell, producing a clear, authentic sound.