



NEW ON NAXOS

The World's Leading Classical Music Label

JULY 2020



This Month's Other Highlights



Twelve titles include World Premiere Recordings!



8.501505

15 Discs

Release Date: 7

24 July 2020



30099 15054 5

Export Price:

USD 15.50 (USA)

SRP: USD 49.99 /

EUR 44.99 / GBP 44.99

Claudio MONTEVERDI (1567–1643) Complete Madrigals

Delitiae Musicae • Marco Longhini

The madrigal, written for courts and patrons, was the ultimate secular song. The genre reached its zenith with the works of Claudio Monteverdi in successive books that trace his technical and expressive innovations. In them, Monteverdi explored themes such as the vicissitudes and pleasures of love, as well as the art of war, and the pain of loss. The editions used in these recordings are the most authentic and uncut, and, in keeping with 17th-century practice, employ male voices only. Praised as 'compelling, simultaneously controlled and imaginative' (*American Record Guide*) the collection also includes pieces never before recorded.

About Delitiae Musicae

The instrumental and vocal ensemble **Delitiae Musicae** is considered one of the most enterprising Italian early music ensembles, with important recordings in the last 20 years that include the *Missa Philomena Praevia* of Verdelot, four widely acclaimed albums dedicated to *Masses* of Palestrina based on the compositions of the Flemish composer Cipriano de Rore, Lupus and Jacquet de Mantua. The unconventional yet impassioned interpretations by Delitiae Musicae and **Marco Longhini** are seen as an important regeneration of Italian Renaissance and Baroque music.



Delitiae Musicae – Via San Giuseppe, 3a,
I 37024 Negrar di Valpolicella VR

Supplementary Marketing Materials:

- eCard
- Video Trailer
- Facebook cover and post

Also available – **The Complete Madrigals by Carlo Gesualdo**

8.507013



'The singers of Delitiae Musicae, individually and collectively, are fascinating.' – *Fanfare*

Click button to listen to an extract from
Book 8 – Altri canti di Marte (Madrigali amorosi)

LISTEN



WHAT'S INSIDE THE BOX

8.555307 • BOOK 1

COMPLETE SECULAR MANUSCRIPT WORKS

'This release will appeal to the earnest Monteverdi collector.'

– *American Record Guide*

8.555308 • BOOK 2

'This one is another winner.' – *ClassicsToday.com*



8.555309 • BOOK 3

'The recordings...belong to the best available.'

– *MusicWeb International*



8.555310 • BOOK 4

'These are bracing and hugely enjoyable performances.'

– *International Record Review*

8.555311 • BOOK 5

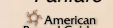
'The singing here is superb.' – *ClassicsToday.com*



8.555312-13 • BOOK 6

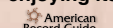
'Longhini's...excellence of execution continued to impress.'

– *Fanfare*



8.555314-16 • BOOK 7 'CONCERTO'

'The set as a whole breathes a sense of commitment... the cast is audibly enjoying itself.' – *Gramophone*



8.573755-58 • BOOK 8

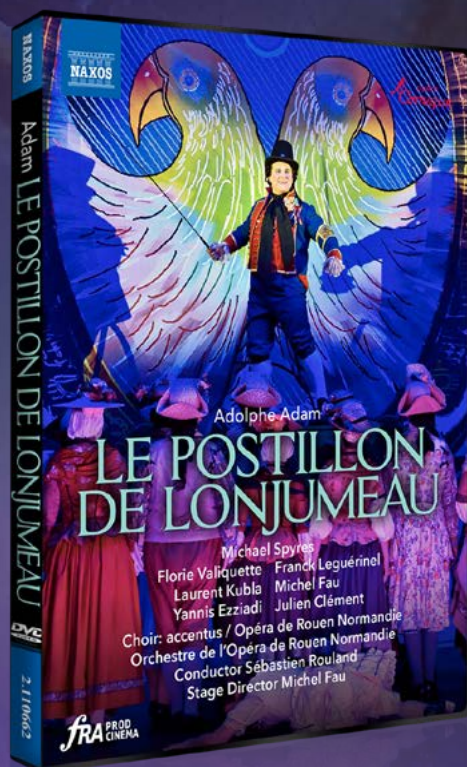
'MADRIGALI GUERRIERI ET AMOROSI'

'Longhini's singers do an excellent job [of] maintaining a high level of performance and interpretation throughout.' – *WTJU*

8.555318 • BOOK 9

SCHERZI MUSICALI (1632)

'Delitiae Musicae, living up to their name in characterisation and story-telling.' – *Choir & Organ*



Michael Spyres as Chapelou / Saint-Phar and
Florie Valiquette as Madeleine / Madame de Latour

Adolphe ADAM (1803–1856)

Le Postillon de Lonjumeau

Libretto by Adolphe de Leuven and
Léon-Lévy Brunswick

Florie Valiquette, Soprano • Michael Spyres, Tenor
Franck Leguérinel and Julien Clément, Baritones
Laurent Kubla, Bass-baritone • Michel Fau and Yannis Ezziadi, Actors
Choir: accentus / Opéra de Rouen Normandie
Orchestre de l'Opéra de Rouen Normandie
Sébastien Rouland, Conductor • Michel Fau, Stage director

Adolphe Adam's *Le Postillon de Lonjumeau* was a great success at its premiere in 1836, and, along with the ballet *Giselle*, has remained one of the composer's most popular works. Following the great French tradition, this *opéra-comique* has it all: 18th-century Rococo Parisian glamour and a perilous love story involving the dashing and flirtatious Chapelou and his opposite, the powerful and clever Madeleine. This lavish and spectacular production from the Opéra Comique in Paris received widespread critical acclaim and also features costumes by the iconic French fashion designer Christian Lacroix.



Also available on Blu-ray Video:

NBD0112V
Playing Time: 137 minutes
Picture format: HD 16:9
Sound format: PCM stereo and DTS-MA 5.1
Language: French
Subtitles: French, English, German, Japanese, Korean
Region code: A, B, C
No. of disc/s: 1 (BD 50)
Price Code: OB
Release Date: 10 July 2020



Companion Titles –

Previous releases from Naxos Audiovisual



2.110661
(NBD0111V)



2.110658
(NBD0109V)



2.110657
(NBD0108V)



2.110594
(NBD0090V)

2.110662
Playing Time: 137 minutes
Picture format: NTSC 16:9
Sound format: PCM stereo and DTS 5.1
Language: French
Subtitles: French, English, German,
Japanese, Korean
Region code: 0 (worldwide)
No. of disc/s: 1 (DVD 9)
Price Code: OB
Release Date: 10 July 2020



▶ Watch Video Trailer

Key Features:

- Naxos had success with stage works by Adolphe Adam in the past, including the ballet *Le Corsaire* (2.110594 / NBD0090V) summed up as 'a hugely enjoyable romp' by *MusicWeb International*, and the music of the even more famous ballet *Giselle* (8.550755-56) given three stars by *The Penguin Guide*.
- A co-production by Opéra Comique with Opéra de Rouen Normandie, this 2019 performance was well received by critics, *Classical Voice North America* providing an extensive review: 'Differentiating between action and contemplation, **Michel Fau** mounted large ensembles using the full stage, with arias and intimate dialogues performed in a shallow space in front of a painted drop curtain. The production became a fairy tale with heart and humour... **Sébastien Rouland**, general music director of the Saarbrücken Staatstheater, conducted the **Orchestre de l'Opéra de Rouen Normandie** with energy and a relaxed sense of pacing. The excellent choral artists of **accentus/Opéra de Rouen Normandie** sounded and looked splendid.'
- The production featured a notable cast. *Classical Voice North American* wrote of the soloists: '**Franck Leguérinel**'s consummate performance as a comic singer-actor, pop-eyed and mustachioed like Groucho Mark, leading the action forward throughout the evening, was outstanding. But it was soon clear that **Michael Spyres** is also an excellent comedian, and his vocal virtuosity is such that he can afford to play with it almost self-mockingly, throwing in extra Ds (or higher?) with a wink and a grin.'



© Ledroit-Perrin

Supplementary Marketing Materials:

- Sales Sheet
- Video Trailer
- Facebook cover and post



8.574282

Price Code: NXP



Playing Time: 58:02

Release Date:

10 July 2020

Gioachino ROSSINI (1792–1868)

Le nozze di Teti e di Peleo

('The Marriage of Thetis and Peleus')

Libretto by Angelo Maria Ricci

Leonor Bonilla and Eleonora Bellocchi, Sopranos

Marina Comparato, Mezzo-soprano

Joshua Stewart and Mert Süngü, Tenors

Górecki Chamber Choir, Kraków

Virtuosi Brunensis • Pietro Rizzo

Rossini's Neapolitan theatrical debut in 1815 won him overnight esteem as well as the favour of the Bourbon dynasty, ensuring lucrative contracts and commissions. The following year he composed *Le nozze di Teti e di Peleo*, an allegorical cantata on the theme of the wedding between the sea goddess Thetis and the hero Peleus. Written to celebrate a royal marriage, it is an intensely theatrical work in which Rossini drew on some of the greatest contemporary singers, specialists in the ornamented *bel canto* style, and created a staged spectacular with chorus and a wealth of colourful orchestration.

About the Artists

The **Górecki Chamber Choir** was founded in 2013 by the Passionart Society in connection with the first performance of church music by Henryk Górecki. In subsequent years the choir has given concerts of sacred music throughout Poland, under the direction of, among others, José Cura and Daniel Smith. The choir made its debut at Rossini in Wildbad in 2017.

The **Virtuosi Brunensis** chamber orchestra was established in 2007. The orchestra has appeared, among other engagements, at Rossini in Wildbad where it has recorded Rossini's *Otello*, *L'Italiana in Algeri*, *Semiramide* and *Guillaume Tell*, Vaccaj's *La sposa di Messina* and Mercadante's *I briganti* for Naxos, among others.



Górecki Chamber Choir, Kraków



Virtuosi Brunensis

© Ryszard Janczak



Performance of Rossini's *Le nozze di Teti e di Peleo* at the XXX ROSSINI IN WILDBAD Festival (Jochen Schönleber, Artistic Director)
© Andreas Heideker

Click button to listen to an extract from
No. 2. Cavatina – *Ovunque volgomi* (Peleo, Coro)

LISTEN

Key Features:

- This performance, recorded live from the 2018 Rossini in Wildbad Festival, was received enthusiastically response from *Opera News*: 'The admirable **Mert Süngü** was an excellent Peleus. [His] musicality and superb technique were beyond criticism.' The chorus parts 'were attractively sung by the Górecki Chamber Choir. The pointed, stylish playing of the Virtuosi Brunensis under the baton of **Pietro Rizzo**, was another pleasure in the presentation of this slender work.'
- The magazine added: '**Leonor Bonilla**, as the goddess Ceres, was clearly an audience favorite. A warm, lyric soprano with an athletic technique, she mastered the difficulties of her aria with aplomb. However, the most beautiful voice of the evening belonged to the American tenor **Joshua Stewart**, who brought an appropriate gravity of tone to the role of Zeus.'
- Soprano **Eleonora Bellocchi** was First Prize winner at the International Singing Competitions 'Carlo Guasco' and 'Giulio Neri', and is a recipient of the International Belcanto Prize at the Rossini in Wildbad festival. A winner of many prestigious competitions, mezzo-soprano **Marina Comparato** has appeared on the Naxos release of Rossini's *Zelmira* (8.660468-70) from Rossini in Wildbad.



Mert Süngü

© Suat Arkan



Leonor Bonilla

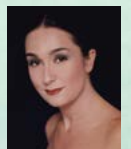


Joshua Stewart

© Gabriel Wolf



Eleonora Bellocchi



Marina Comparato

Supplementary Marketing Materials:

- eCard
- Facebook cover and post

Companion Titles – Previous releases from Rossini in Wildbad



8.660468-70



8.660466-67



8.660448-50



8.660444-46

INCLUDES
WORLD PREMIERE
RECORDINGS8.574006
Price Code: NXPPlaying Time: 61:16
Release Date:
10 July 2020

© V. Balevsky

Dario Salvi

Daniel-François-Esprit AUBER (1782–1871)

Overtures, Vol. 2

Le Concert à la cour

Fiorella • Julie • Léocadie • Couvin

Violin Concerto *

Markéta Čepická, Violin *
Czech Chamber Philharmonic Orchestra Pardubice
Dario Salvi

The second volume in this series (*Volume 1* is on 8.574005) continues to explore little-known examples of Auber's elegant and refined operatic music. *Julie* was his first stage work, its fantasia-like beauty foreshadowing the operas, *opéras-comiques* and lyric dramas to come. Striking melodies and haunting episodes abound in these overtures and entr'actes, and there is restrained yet fragrant Iberian colour in the overture to *Léocadie*. The *Violin Concerto* is lightly scored and gentle, with a tarantella-like finale full of folk vitality.

Key Features:

- Daniel-François-Esprit Auber was a leading composer of French opera from the 1820s onwards and was enormously popular in his day, but aside from the hit opera *Fra Diavolo* there are few recordings of his music currently available, and most of the overtures and incidental music recorded here are world premieres performed from archive sources.
- Vol. 1 in the series was released on December 2019 (8.574005). According to *ClassicsToday.com*, the 'release deserves attention on account of the repertoire's rarity', while *Pizzicato* wrote that Dario Salvi 'has a good instinct for this music, which blossoms brilliantly and richly under his hands.' (★★★★)
- Salvi specializes in the restoration and performance of rare works, the most recent of which is the world premiere recording of Johann Strauss II's operetta *Blindeküh* (8.660434-35). *Operetta Research Center* commented: 'Salvi colours his orchestra with the bright or tender nuances of Johann Strauss II, and leads his singers with the abandonment and love that animate his deep belief in this evocative and seductive music: a real happiness for the listener.'

Click button to listen to an extract from
Fiorella – Overture

LISTEN

About Dario Salvi

Dario Salvi is an Anglo/Italian orchestral conductor and researcher specialising in the restoration and performance of rare works. His main area of interest is Viennese Music and works by Meyerbeer and Auber. Salvi has conducted opera and operetta across Europe and the US as well as in more exotic places like the Royal Opera House in Muscat, Oman. His passion is the rediscovery and performance of never-before-heard masterpieces by the likes of Suppé, Meyerbeer, Rumshinsky, Genée, Auber and many others.

Supplementary Marketing Materials:

- Key Release Kit
- Facebook cover and post



Czech Chamber Philharmonic Orchestra Pardubice

© Frantisek Renza

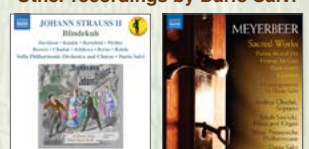
Companion Titles – Overtures by Daniel Auber



8.574005

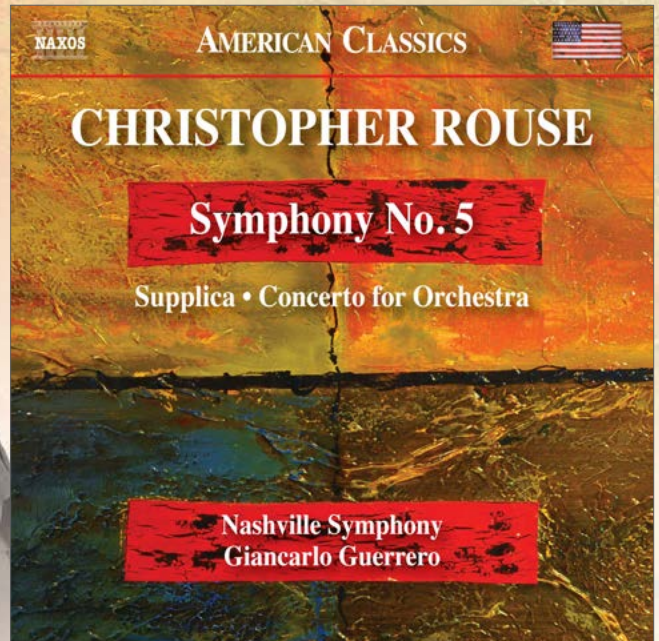
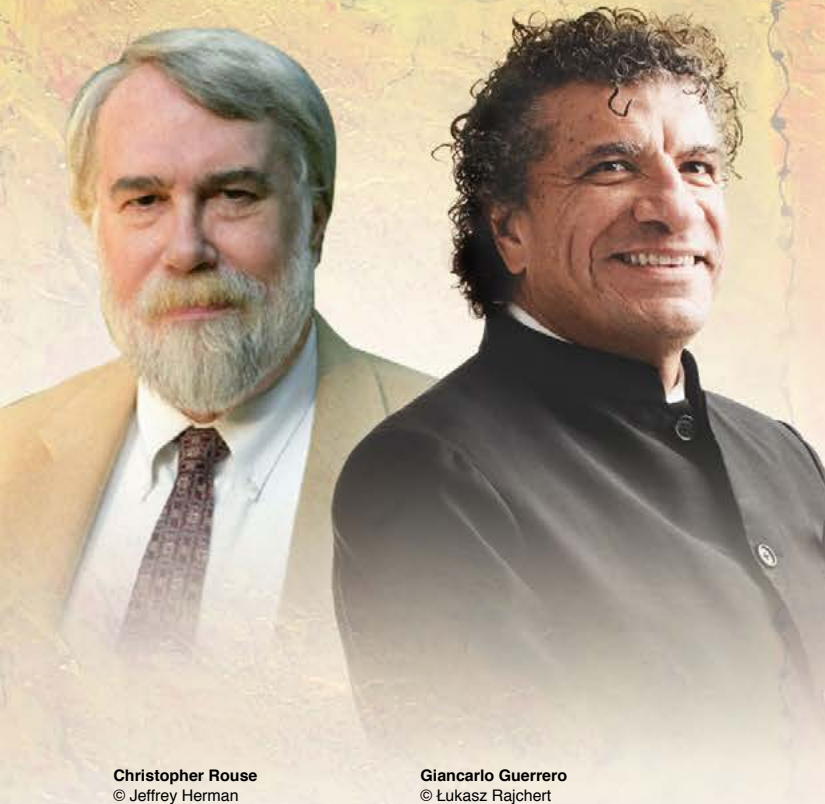
8.573553

Companion Titles – Other recordings by Dario Salvi



8.660434-35

8.573907



8.559852

Price Code: NXP



Playing Time: 71:32

Release Date:

24 July 2020

Christopher ROUSE (1949–2019)

Symphony No. 5

Supplica

Concerto for Orchestra

Nashville Symphony
Giancarlo Guerrero

Few contemporary artists have been as significant as Pulitzer Prize and GRAMMY Award winner Christopher Rouse, whose imaginative approach made him one of the most frequently performed composers during his lifetime. The *Concerto for Orchestra* is a 'hyper-concerto' that gives each player a chance to shine, while the mournful intimacy and passion of *Supplica* unfolds somewhat like the slow movement of a Bruckner or Mahler symphony. Rouse's *Fifth Symphony* fondly recalls Beethoven's mighty *Fifth* but blurs the lines between tradition and modernity, transporting the listener from turbulence to serenity. It was described as "brilliant, exciting and at times hauntingly beautiful" in *The Dallas Morning News*.

About Giancarlo Guerrero

Six-time GRAMMY Award-winning conductor **Giancarlo Guerrero** is music director of the **Nashville Symphony** and the NFM Wrocław Philharmonic in Poland, as well as principal guest conductor of the Gulbenkian Orchestra in Lisbon, Portugal. He has championed contemporary American music through numerous commissions, recordings and performances with the Nashville Symphony, presenting eleven world premieres of works by Jonathan Leshnoff, Michael Daugherty, Terry Riley, and others. As part of this commitment, he helped guide the creation of Nashville Symphony's Composer Lab & Workshop initiative.

Companion Titles – American Classics Series



8.559838

8.559870

8.559859

8.559799

Click button to listen to an extract from
Symphony No. 5



Key Features:

- **Christopher Rouse's** music achieved immense popularity during his lifetime, and his aim of trying 'to be of use: to sing you a song, to paint you a picture, to tell you a story' has resonated with audiences all over the world. The Pulitzer Prize and GRAMMY-winning composer passed in September 2019 at the age of 70.
- The GRAMMY nominated *Seeing* (8.559799) was summed up as 'magnificent' in the *American Record Guide*, and *Wolf Rounds* (8.572439) 'a virtuosic thrill-ride, to be sure – gripping, convincing, and a significant addition to the ever-growing literature for wind bands.' (*MusicWeb International*)
- Champions of new American music, the Nashville Symphony and its music director Giancarlo Guerrero had premiered numerous works, and received 13 GRAMMY Awards including two for Best Orchestral Performance. Among their award-winning recordings include works by Michael Daugherty (*Metropolis Symphony* on 8.559635; *Tales of Hemingway* on 8.559798), Stephen Paulus (*Three Places of Enlightenment* on 8.559740), and Jennifer Higdon (*All Things Majestic* and *Viola Concerto* on 8.559823).

Supplementary Marketing Materials:

- Key Release Kit
- Facebook cover and post



Nashville Symphony

© Kurt Heinicke

Barthold Kuijken

Georg Philipp TELEMANN (1681–1767)**The Colourful Telemann****Overture • Concertos****Sonata • Sinfonia Melodica**

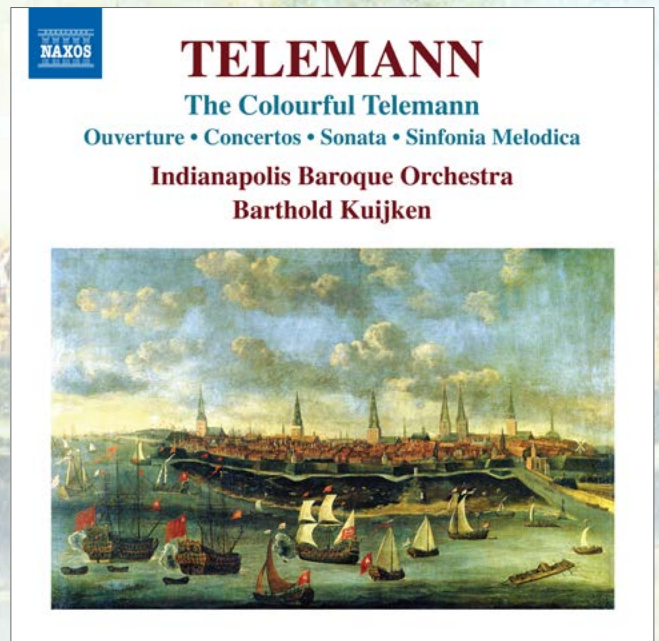
Indianapolis Baroque Orchestra

Barthold Kuijken

The Colourful Telemann presents works from different periods of Georg Philipp Telemann's life, reflecting his lively personality and exploring his seemingly unlimited invention over a wide variety of styles and genres. A contemporary of Bach and Handel, Telemann wrote music that stands out for its delightful and remarkably generous character, each piece like a leisurely walk with a good friend. From the German and French influences of the earlier *Sonata* to the dignified *Sinfonia Melodica*, possibly composed in the year of his death, this is Telemann at his best.

Key Features:

- This is the fourth recording the Indianapolis Baroque Orchestra for Naxos, with its artistic director renowned Baroque musician Barthold Kuijken. Also including a concerto by Telemann, their album *The Grand Mogul* (8.573899) was admired by the *American Record Guide* with remarks such as, 'Barthold Kuijken is one of the greatest Baroque flutists of our time, and his playing here is splendid.'
- Further albums from these musicians are *The Lully Effect* (8.573867), considered 'an unalloyed delight' in *ConcertoNet.com*, and *The Versailles Revolution* (8.573868) which 'breathes the spirit of the French court and, with the influence of Lully clearly at work throughout... Very fine performances and recording make it all the more desirable' for *MusicWeb International*.
- Named one of the top 25 ensembles in celebration of Early Music America's 25th anniversary in 2011, the **Indianapolis Baroque Orchestra** is dedicated to excellent and exuberant performance of 17th- and 18th-century music on period instruments. Praised for its performances of the French Baroque and beyond, members of the orchestra are some of the finest Baroque specialists in North America.



8.573900

Price Code: NXP



Playing Time: 64:44

Release Date:

24 July 2020

Click button to listen to an extract from
Overture in C minor, TWV 55:c4

LISTEN

About Barthold Kuijken

Barthold Kuijken is an eminent leader in the field of early music. A virtuoso traverso soloist, teacher and conductor, he has shaped the fields of historical flutes and historically informed performance over the last 40 years. Kuijken has widely performed and recorded the repertoire for the Baroque flute and has collaborated with other early music specialists including his brothers, Sigiswald Kuijken and Wieland Kuijken, Frans Brüggen, Gustav Leonhardt and Paul Dombrecht.



Indianapolis Baroque Orchestra

Companion Titles –**Barthold Kuijken and the Indianapolis Baroque Orchestra**

8.573899



8.573868



8.573867



8.573625
Price Code: NXP



Playing Time: 50:32
Release Date:
10 July 2020

Johann Sebastian BACH (1685–1750)
Cello Suites, Vol. 1
Nos. 1–3, BWV 1007–1009
Arranged for guitar
Jeffrey McFadden, Guitar

The six *Cello Suites* represent J.S. Bach's genius at its most distilled, with the composer confronting the enigma of writing counterpoint for a monophonic instrument at its core. Jeffrey McFadden's arrangement for guitar enhances the music, adding a harmonic dimension and making the implied interaction of voices explicit. The *Suites* contain some of the most fascinating and beautiful movements in all of Bach's *oeuvre*, and remain one of the most important works in the history of Western music. 'Jeffrey McFadden not only is an extraordinary guitarist – he's also an inspired musician' (*ClassicsToday.com* on Naxos 8.554354, works by Napoléon Coste).

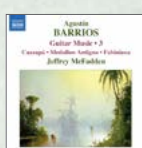
About Jeffrey McFadden

Jeffrey McFadden has been acknowledged as one of the finest guitarists of his generation, with concert engagements taking him throughout Canada and the United States and into Europe. He has given world premieres of works by numerous composers and has been a featured performer at several international music festivals. His Naxos recordings include the music of Agustín Barrios, Napoléon Coste and Fernando Sor, and guitar duets by Mauro Giuliani recorded with Norbert Kraft.

Companion Titles – Jeffrey McFadden, Guitar



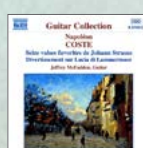
8.573624



8.557807



8.554354



8.554192



© Michael Culpepper

Jeffrey McFadden

Click button to listen to an extract from
Cello Suite No. 3 in C major, BWV 1009: II. Allemande

LISTEN

Key Features:

- Bach's six *Cello Suites* have been arranged for guitar in the past, with Francisco Tárrega starting this tradition in the 19th century, followed by the likes of Andrés Segovia and John W. Duarte. Each new arrangement brings contemporary thinking and fresh insights and research, and Jeffrey McFadden's superb transcriptions have been applauded at numerous concert performances in which he was able to refine and hone his approach in advance of these recordings.
- McFadden recorded two instalments of Coste's guitar works for Naxos (Vol. 1 on 8.554192). Vol. 4 (8.554354) received a 10/10 score from *ClassicsToday.com*: 'Bass lines simply soar, and the bell-like sound he gets from the higher strings and remarkable registral independence makes us wonder if McFadden is actually playing a piano disguised as a guitar! No question, this is one of the loveliest discs in Naxos' burgeoning guitar collection.' His recording of American works for flute and guitar (8.559146), with flutist Alexandra Hawley, was similarly received with great acclaim by *ClassicsToday.com* (10/10).

Supplementary Marketing Materials:

- Key Release Kit
- Facebook cover and post



8.579053
Price Code: NXP



Playing Time: 57:46
Release Date:
24 July 2020



Darrell Ang

Junhong Kuang
© Youyu Zhang

Joaquín RODRIGO (1901–1999) Concierto de Aranjuez

Manuel PONCE (1882–1948) Concierto del sur

Gerald GARCIA (b. 1949) China Sings!

Junhong Kuang, Guitar
Czech Chamber Philharmonic Orchestra Pardubice
Darrell Ang

Rodrigo's *Concierto de Aranjuez* is the most celebrated classical guitar work of the 20th century, music that conjures up the colour, sophistication and glories of eternal Spain. The founding father of Mexican music, Manuel Ponce, wrote his *Concierto del sur* for Segovia, and it is a work of vivid grandeur, Sevillian dances and melodic richness. To complete the programme, prize-winning international virtuoso Junhong Kuang plays a piece dedicated to him – Gerald Garcia's *China Sings!* – a rhapsody inspired by two popular Chinese tunes.

About Darrell Ang

Darrell Ang is the artistic director and chief conductor of China's Sichuan Symphony since December 2016. He regularly conducts the Radio France Philharmonic Orchestra, Royal Liverpool Philharmonic, Philharmonia Orchestra, London Philharmonic Orchestra, 'Giuseppe Verdi' Symphony Orchestra, Munich Radio Orchestra, NHK Symphony Orchestra, Queensland Symphony Orchestra, National Taiwan Symphony Orchestra, Singapore Symphony and at the Mariinsky Theatre in St Petersburg. Darrell Ang received a GRAMMY Award nomination for his Naxos debut recording of *Symphony 'Humen 1839'* by Zhou Long and Chen Yi (8.570611). His most recent albums feature Kabalevsky's First and Second Symphonies (8.573859) and d'Indy's incidental music *Médée* (8.573858), among others.

Supplementary Marketing Materials:

- Key Release Kit
- Facebook cover and post

Click button to listen to an extract from
GARCIA, G.: China Sings!:
II. Silver Clouds across the Moon: Allegro non troppo

LISTEN



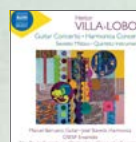
Key Features:

- Born in 1999 in China, **Junhong Kuang** was awarded the top prize in the classical guitar category of the prestigious ARD Music Competition in 2017, along with the Audience Prize and the ifp-Musikpreis, becoming the youngest prizewinner in the ARD's history. Kuang made his recording debut with an album of music by Bach, Albéniz, Granados, Barrios Mangoré and Mertz, released on Naxos in 2015 to great critical acclaim (8.573432).
- While Rodrigo's concerto is one of the popular pieces in the repertoire, this release's highlight is the world premiere recording of Gerald Garcia's *China Sings!*, in its 2019 version for guitar and orchestra, which was dedicated for Junhong Kuang. Also included is a rare recording of Ponce's *Concierto del sur*.
- The **Czech Chamber Philharmonic Orchestra Pardubice** is regarded as one of the world's leading representatives of Czech musical culture, and has recorded extensively for various labels. Their numerous Naxos albums include symphonies by Leopold Koželuch and Michael Haydn as well as overtures by Domenico Cimarosa, among others.



Czech Chamber Philharmonic Orchestra Pardubice

Companion Titles – Guitar Concertos



8.574018



8.573503



8.573067



8.570611

Companion Titles – Darrell Ang, Conductor



8.574128
Price Code:
NXP

7 47313 41287 7

Playing Time:
72:57
Release Date:
10 July 2020

Companion Titles – Latin-American Orchestral Music



8.570999 8.573759 8.573515-16 8.574067

Esteban BENZECRY (b. 1970)

Ciclo de canciones¹

Violin Concerto² • Clarinet Concerto³

Ayako Tanaka, Soprano¹ • Xavier Inchausti, Violin² • Mariano Rey, Clarinet³
Lviv National Philharmonic Symphony Orchestra • Pablo Boggiano

French-Argentinian composer Esteban Benzecry has built up a distinctive body of work, from symphonies to works for solo piano. He stands as a worthy successor to such masters as Ginastera, Villa-Lobos and Chávez, with music that is suffused with 'imaginary folklore', flashes of colour, fieriness and reverie. The autobiographical *Violin Concerto* draws on South American folk motifs and rhythms, whereas in *Ciclo de canciones* he explores the meeting of two cultures, Argentinian and Japanese. The breathtaking dialogues between soloist and orchestra in the *Clarinet Concerto* recall Andean and pre-Hispanic times.

Key Features:

- **Esteban Benzecry** is one of the most performed and commissioned Argentinian composers of his generation. His most recent works attempt to fuse Latin American-inspired rhythms with the diverse aesthetics of European contemporary music to create a personal language and an imaginary folklore. This release celebrates his 50th birthday last April 2020.
- Japanese coloratura soprano **Ayako Tanaka** made her debut in *Le nozze di Figaro* at the Stadttheater Bern at the age of 22 – the youngest soloist to appear at the theatre. She gave the world premiere of Esteban Benzecry's award-winning *Ciclo de canciones* in 2017 with the Argentine National Symphony Orchestra in Buenos Aires, a work inspired by Tanaka's voice. In 2019 was selected as one of '100 Japanese People the World Respects' by *Newsweek Japan*.
- A winner of numerous international competitions, **Pablo Boggiano** regularly works with the Orquesta Sinfónica Nacional and Orquesta Filarmónica de Buenos Aires del Teatro Colón in Argentina, among others. In 2017 he was invited by Teatro Colón to work on an international production of Richard Strauss's *Der Rosenkavalier*.



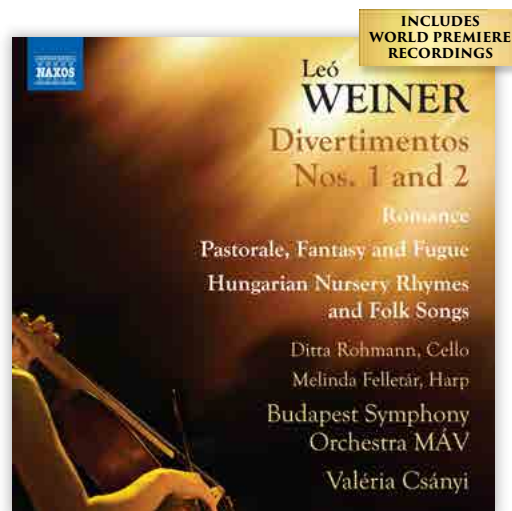
© Alita Bardi



LISTEN



Click button to listen to an extract from
Ciclo de canciones: No. 4. La noche ('Night')



8.574125
Price Code:
NXP

7 47313 41257 0

Playing Time:
66:33
Release Date:
24 July 2020

Companion Titles – Leó Weiner, Composer



8.573491 8.573847

Companion Titles – Hungarian Orchestral Music



8.574108 8.573838

Leó WEINER (1885–1960)

Divertimentos Nos. 1 and 2

Romance • Pastoral, Fantasy and Fugue

Hungarian Nursery Rhymes and Folk Songs

Ditta Rohmann, Cello • Melinda Felletár, Harp
Budapest Symphony Orchestra MÁV • Valéria Csányi

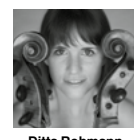
Leó Weiner, a contemporary of Bartók and Kodály, was a profoundly important teacher in Budapest whose own music developed from a more traditional Romantic model – exemplified by the songful *Románc, Op. 29* – to an absorption of his native Hungarian folk music during the 1930s. The two *Divertimentos* for strings, vibrantly orchestrated sequences of dances, are among the best-known works of this period. The later *Hungarian Nursery Rhymes and Folk Songs* draw on some archaic and very popular native melodies. Volumes 1 and 2 can be heard on 8.573491 and 8.573847.

Key Features:

- This is Volume 3 of **Valéria Csányi's** ongoing series of the complete orchestral works by Weiner, with the **Budapest Symphony Orchestra MÁV**. Vol. 1 includes the complete ballet *Csongor and Tünde* (8.573491) in which *Gramophone* wrote that 'Csányi shapes the score as if she really loves it', while *Fanfare* stated that 'this disc represents a charming discovery.'
- Vol. 2 is a recording of the symphonic poem *Toldi, Op. 43* (8.573847). According to *AllMusic.com*, 'The score is absolutely action-packed.' The orchestra and conductor 'deliver an exciting, enthusiastic performance, augmented by strong engineering from a Hungarian Radio studio. Delightful.' (★★★★)
- **Ditta Rohmann** is a versatile cellist. Her discography includes the solo suites of J.S. Bach, and a portrait album featuring Hungarian cello music, including Kodály's Sonata for Solo Cello. She has her own chamber series in Budapest, Bach+, which features exceptional Baroque guest performers.



© Zsuzsanna Rózsa



© Raffay Zsolt

LISTEN



Click button to listen to an extract from
*Divertimento No. 2, Op. 24 'Magyar népi dallamok':
I. Lakodalmas ('Hungarian Wedding Dance')*



INCLUDES
WORLD PREMIERE
RECORDINGS

8.574204
Price Code:
NXP
7 47313 42047 6
Playing Time:
58:28
Release Date:
10 July 2020

Companion Titles – Music for Trumpet



8.573995 8.572506 8.559719 8.554302

EGREGORE+

Original and arranged works for trumpets and chamber orchestra
ALBÉNIZ • CHARLIER • OSCHER • VILLA-LOBOS • VIVALDI

Fábío Brum, Cornets, Trumpet, Flugelhorn
Kammerensemble Konsonanz • Pacho Flores

▶ Watch Video Trailer

The aim of this innovative album is to introduce listeners to the rich variety of the trumpet family and through the use of modern instruments – one especially developed for the project – to imbue the music with unique colours and textures. All the pieces were either arranged or written specifically for this album and the programme includes the first ever orchestration of Théodore Charlier's operatic *Solo de concours* as well as Efraim Oscher's evocative *Rapsodia latina*, which introduces a new instrument, the piccolo cornet in A.

Key Features:

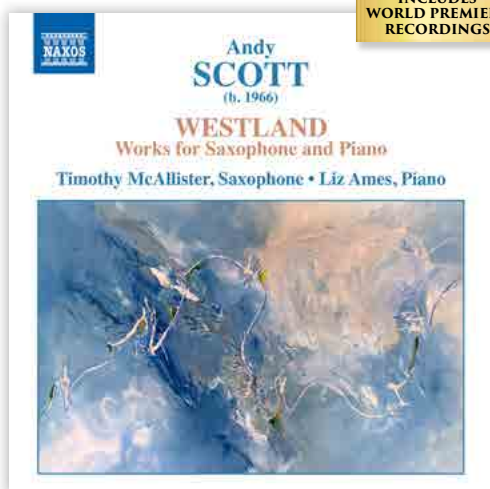
- The young Brazilian trumpeter **Fábío Brum** has appeared in more than 30 countries as a soloist, orchestral performer and teacher. He has been awarded prizes at the Città di Porcia, Juan García Marín, Ellsworth Smith, International Trumpet Guild and Prague Spring international music competitions, and has received various scholarships and awards.
- Pacho Flores** is a world-renowned trumpet soloist and this recording marks his debut as an orchestral conductor.



Kammerensemble Konsonanz
with Pacho Flores (centre left), Fábío Brum (centre)
and Efraim Oscher (centre right)

LISTEN

Click button to listen to an extract from
VIVALDI, A. (arr. Á. Mendoza): *Griselda, RV 718 – Act II,
Aria: Agitata da due venti*



INCLUDES
WORLD PREMIERE
RECORDINGS

8.579076
Price Code:
NXP
7 47313 90767 0
Playing Time:
50:10
Release Date:
10 July 2020

Companion Titles – Timothy McAllister, Saxophone



8.559824

Companion Titles – Works for Saxophone



8.573228



8.573429



8.559241

Andy SCOTT (b. 1966) Westland

Works for Saxophone and Piano

Timothy McAllister, Saxophone • Liz Ames, Piano

▶ Watch Performance of
And Everything is Still...

Andy Scott is a British Composer Award winner and a founder member of the Apollo Saxophone Quartet. As a saxophonist for over 40 years, Scott's virtuosic yet harmonically subtle music is open to a wide variety of influences. His works are performed on this album by the world-famous virtuoso Timothy McAllister, and the admired English author Lemn Sissay narrates his own poem on *My Mountain Top*.

Key Features:

- Saxophonist-composer **Andy Scott** initiates creative projects and collaborations, writing to commission and performing worldwide. He embraces elements of classical music, jazz, funk and Latin styles that blend to create an individual voice. His works have received premieres at Carnegie Hall, Southbank Centre, Royal Albert Hall and Wigmore Hall.
- Saxophonist **Timothy McAllister** is one of today's premier wind soloists, a member of the renowned PRISM Quartet, and a champion of contemporary music. He is featured on three GRAMMY Award winning recordings, including one on Naxos: the Kenneth Fuchs *Spiritualist* disc on 8.559824, with *Opera News* writing: 'Timothy McAllister delivers unusually pure and sweet tone in the cadenzas of *Rush*, the alto saxophone concerto.'
- Liz Ames** is a celebrated collaborative pianist who is passionate about performing and working with instrumentalists, vocalists and composers. Her publications and projects include piano reductions of large-scale works including Henry Brant's *Concerto for Saxophone and Orchestra*, Peter Schickele's *Concerto for Simply Grand Piano*, and multiple concertos and oratorios by Steven Bryant, Joel Puckett, Donald Grantham, David Biedenbender, and John Mackey.



© Nick Caro



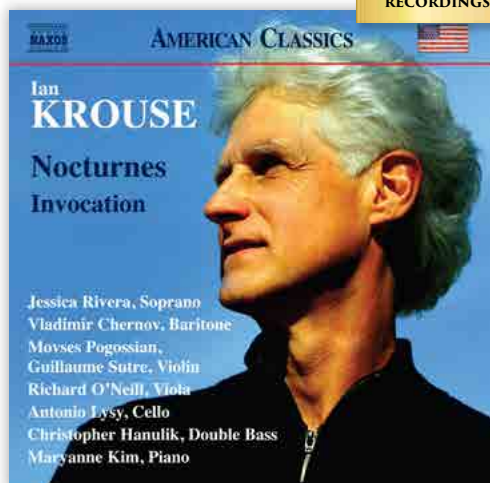
Timothy McAllister and Liz Ames

© Tracy Grosshans

LISTEN

Click button to listen to an extract from
Three Letter Word

WORLD PREMIERE RECORDINGS



8.559877
Price Code:
NXP

6 36943 98772 8

Playing Time:
54:59
Release Date:
24 July 2020

Companion Titles – Ian Krouse, Composer



8.559846-47

Companion Titles – American Vocal Music



8.559889



8.559828



8.559714

Ian KROUSE (b. 1956)

Nocturnes • Invocation

Jessica Rivera, Soprano • Vladimir Chernov, Baritone
Movses Pogossian and Guillaume Sutre, Violins • Richard O'Neill, Viola
Antonio Lysy, Cello • Christopher Hanulik, Double Bass • Maryanne Kim, Piano

Ian Krouse has been acclaimed by *Gramophone* as “one of the most communicative and intriguing” of today’s composers, his style drawing on historical and traditional influences as well as being innovative and modern. With references to Beethoven and Schubert, metaphors of darkness and light are conveyed with powerful emotion in *Nocturnes*, which sets four texts by well-known Armenian poets to form an odyssey through the mind of a man at mid-life. With profound sadness at its heart, *Invocation* explores the intangibility of love, contrasting atonality and tonality to express emotional outpourings that ultimately remain ephemeral and elusive.

Key Features:

- **Ian Krouse** is recognized internationally as one of the leading composers of classical guitar, though throughout his career he has written for nearly every ensemble and in nearly every genre. His *Armenian Requiem* was released on Naxos 8.559846-47 in 2019 to great critical acclaim: ‘An astonishing achievement’ (*Choir & Organ*).
- Both of these song-cycles are performed by the singers for which they were composed. Soprano **Jessica Rivera** has collaborated with many of today’s most noted composers. She appeared in the world premiere recording of John Harbison’s *Requiem* (8.559841), in which *Gramophone* wrote: ‘Among the soloists, Jessica Rivera...stand out.’
- **Vladimir Chernov** has sung over 40 leading roles at the Metropolitan Opera, Covent Garden, La Scala, Teatro Colón, Paris Opéra, Lyric Opera of Chicago, San Francisco Opera and Vienna State Opera, under conductors including Claudio Abbado, Valery Gergiev, James Levine and Seiji Ozawa. He previously appeared on the Naxos recording of Ian Krouse’s *Armenian Requiem*.



© Isabel Pinto



© Daniel Newman

LISTEN

Click button to listen to an extract from
Nocturnes, Op. 60: No. 2. Love Song

INCLUDES
WORLD PREMIERE
RECORDINGS


8.559890
Price Code:
NXP

6 36943 98902 9

Playing Time:
53:17
Release Date:
10 July 2020

Companion Titles – Lori Laitman, Composer



8.559872-73



8.559685



8.669034-35



8.669036

Lori LAITMAN (b. 1955)

The Secret Exit

I Never Saw Another Butterfly • Living In The Body

Kalmen OPPERMAN (1919–2010) Un seul Diana ROSENBLUM (b. 1983) Winter Rain

Kristine Hurst-Wajszczuk, Soprano • Denise Gainey, Clarinet

This collection of songs with voice and clarinet has at its heart Lori Laitman’s profoundly moving cycle *I Never Saw Another Butterfly*, which sets the words of hope and desolation written by children imprisoned in the Terezin concentration camp. Inspired by this poignant music, Kristine Hurst-Wajszczuk and Denise Gainey commissioned a follow-up, *The Secret Exit*, on poems by Nobel Laureate Nelly Sachs that reflect on life and death. Newly arranged for voice and clarinet, *Living In The Body* is a cycle about love, memory and resilience. The program is completed with Diana Rosenblum’s delightful setting of *Winter Rain* and Kalmen Opperman’s haunting *Un seul*.

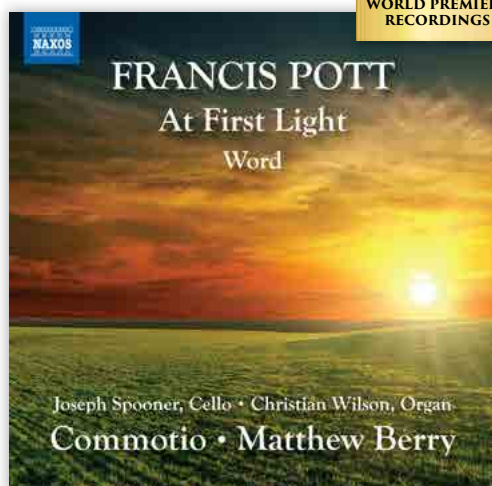
Key Features:

- We have had great success with the music of **Lori Laitman** with previous releases that have also included the original voice and saxophone version of *Living In The Body* (8.559872-73) described in *Fanfare* as ‘required listening for any lover of the art song’. Other popular releases have included her opera *The Scarlet Letter* (8.669034-35) summed up as an ‘impressive and fervent opera’ by *Gramophone*, and the song cycle *In Sleep The World Is Yours* included on Naxos 8.669036 was one of two ‘very good examples of some of the significant tonal modern work being made right now in the US’ for *Gapplegate Classical-Modern Music Review*.
- Soprano **Kristine Hurst-Wajszczuk** has premiered songs by Lori Laitman, Craig Biondi, Zeke Hecker, and performances and recordings of music by David Hogg. She is also an accomplished opera stage director: her productions have won three National Opera Association Awards.



LISTEN

Click button to listen to an extract from
LAITMAN, L.: Living In The Body: No. 2. Living in the Body



8.573976
Price Code:
NXP
7 47313 39767 9
Playing Time:
79:26
Release Date:
10 July 2020

Francis POTT (b. 1957)

At First Light¹ • Word²

Joseph Spooner, Cello¹ • Christian Wilson, Organ²
Commotio • Matthew Berry

Francis Pott's acclaimed musical voice is one of uncommon eloquence and seriousness of purpose, and his works have been performed and broadcast in over 40 countries. This recording presents world premiere recordings of two major pieces. *At First Light* is a memorial work which takes the form of a series of slow meditations surrounding an exuberant motet, with wordless commentary from a lamenting cello. *Word*, with its significant role for the organ and the inclusion of texts by the Welsh priest and poet R.S. Thomas, reveals Gospel contemplation in a postmodern world.

Key Features:

- Critical acclaim for the music of **Francis Pott** has been consistent over the last three decades, his choral and organ output winning increasing attention for its dramatic, questing and profoundly spiritual qualities. Pott's choral album *In the Heart of Things* (8.572739), also recorded by Commotio, was considered by *Choral Journal* to be 'compelling listening. Such terrific writing, expressive singing, and illuminating [liner] notes (by the composer himself) make this disc an absolute "must have".'
- Commotio**, with its conductor and co-founder **Matthew Berry**, recorded several critically acclaimed albums for Naxos, including Pott's *In the Heart of Things*, James Whitbourn's *Luminosity* (8.572103), Bob Chilcott's *The Rose in the Middle of Winter* (8.573159) and *All Good Things* (8.573383). *National Public Radio* described the Whitbourn disc as 'extraordinary. It expands the experience of classical music beyond the edges of the traditional form of classical styles.' *American Record Guide* also praised the choir's second Chilcott disc: 'Commotio seems happily involved in all the elements of Chilcott's music'.



© Rumen Michinov Photography



© Amalia Bastos

Companion Titles – Commotio and Matthew Berry



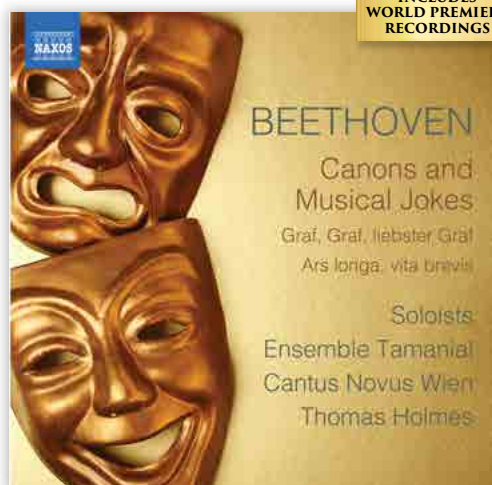
8.572739 8.572103 8.573159 8.573383

LISTEN



Click button to listen to an extract from

At First Light: Generatio praeterit et generatio advenit –



8.574176
Price Code:
NXP
7 47313 41767 4
Playing Time:
54:53
Release Date:
24 July 2020

Ludwig van BEETHOVEN (1770–1827)

Canons and Musical Jokes

Graf, Graf, liebster Graf • Ars longa, vita brevis

Various Soloists • Ensemble Tamaniat

Cantus Novus Wien • Thomas Holmes, Musical Director and Piano

One of the least explored areas of Beethoven's compositions is the miscellaneous sequence of canons, early exercises in counterpoint, mature jokes and *jeux d'esprit* that he wrote over many years. He composed a two-part canon for the composer Hummel in 1816 and in 1823 one for four voices (written in a tavern) for Count Lichnowsky. He also wrote birthday and Christmas greetings for colleagues and friends, and songs that punned on recipients' names or poked fun at them.

Key Features:

- In celebration of Ludwig van Beethoven's 250th anniversary in 2020, Naxos is releasing a series of the composer's Lieder and folk song settings, as well as other secular vocal works including the complete *Canons and Musical Jokes*. These recordings are also included in the 90-disc *Beethoven Complete Edition* boxed set (8.500250), released in November 2019.
- Viennese chamber choir **Cantus Novus Wien** draws on an extensive repertoire of Baroque, Classical, and contemporary music, including a cappella choral music, oratorios by Handel and Haydn, and requiems by Mozart, Brahms, Verdi, and Fauré. Contemporary music is one of the choir's focal points, including regular world premieres of commissioned pieces. The choir has been conducted by **Thomas Holmes** since 2001.
- Ensemble Tamaniat** is a vocal quartet based in Vienna, Austria. The ensemble was established to provide a place in which to grow and learn as musicians through undertaking soloist responsibility across a wide variety of musical styles, including Renaissance, Classical, Romantic and also in contemporary works. For these Beethoven recordings the ensemble have been working closely with Thomas Holmes as their musical director and wish to express their deep gratitude.



Cantus Novus Wien

© Harald Maiböck



Clockwise from top left:
Tabea Gerstgrasser, Marianne Prener,
Alex Gazda, Nicolas Frémey

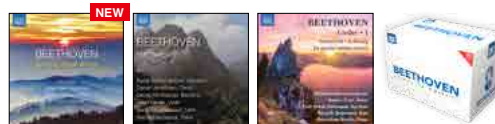
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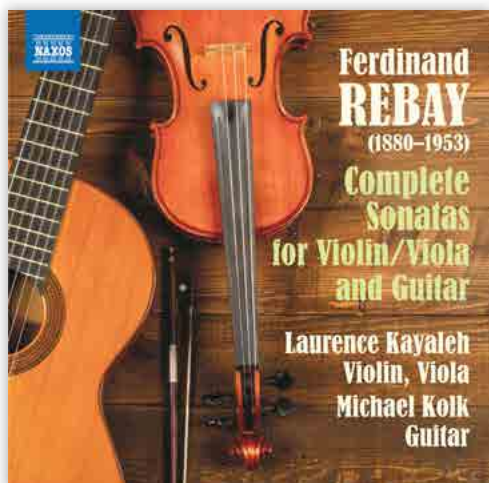
Click button to listen to an extract from

Edel sei der Mensch, hilfreich und gut, WoO 185

Companion Titles – Ludwig van Beethoven, Composer



8.574175 8.574174 8.574071 8.500250



8.573992
Price Code:
NXP
7 47313 39927 7
Playing Time:
68:13
Release Date:
24 July 2020

Companion Titles – Laurence Kayaleh, Violin



8.573842 8.573841 8.573345 8.572192

Ferdinand REBAY (1880–1953) Complete Sonatas for Violin/ Viola and Guitar

Laurence Kayaleh, Violin, Viola • Michael Kolk, Guitar

Ferdinand Rebay was born in Vienna where he studied piano and composition, winning the Brahms Prize. He wrote operas, a symphony, concertos and many songs, but was increasingly drawn to writing for the guitar for which he wrote 600 pieces of various kinds. The three sonatas recorded here are little known and reflect Rebay's immersion in Romantic neo-Classicism. Themes are lyrical, utilising folk song, energetic March themes and variations, with a tapestry of emotions both sombre and exuberant.

Key Features:

- **Laurence Kayaleh** has recorded the complete works for violin and piano by Medtner, Honegger and Catoire for Naxos. Her Catoire recording (8.573345) was selected in *Fanfare's* 'Want List' for 2016: 'The brilliant performance by violinist Laurence Kayaleh and pianist Stéphane Lemelin is lively and its sound is clear, clean and pleasantly warm.'
- Kayaleh has also recently recorded two volumes of Joachim Raff's violin sonatas with pianist Jean-Fabien Schneider. Vol. 1 (8.573841) was praised by *American Record Guide* for 'Kayaleh's marvelous playing', while *Ritmo* wrote that Vol. 2 features 'legitimate interpretations'.
- Guitarist **Michael Kolk** has performed at music festivals and concert halls throughout Europe and North America. A prizewinner at numerous guitar competitions, he has released four solo albums to date, as well as three releases as part of the HK Guitar Duo, and an album of Mauro Giuliani duos with Jeffrey McFadden (8.572445).



© Michael Sibbaldian



© Joel Yum

LISTEN

Click button to listen to an extract from

Sonata for Violin and Guitar in E minor: I. Allegro ma non troppo



8.573986
Price Code:
NXP
7 47313 39867 6
Playing Time:
58:09
Release Date:
24 July 2020

Camillo TOGNI (1922–1993) Complete Piano Music, Vol. 5

Aldo Orvieto, Piano

Camillo Togni loved the piano and fully understood the instrument's great potential for colour and virtuosity. This final volume in the series explores Togni's very first piano works, redolent of Chopin and Liszt, as well as pieces from his formative years of development. They include the *Pezzo per pianoforte* and the *Fantasia a quattro voci e pedale* where his use of chromaticism and contrapuntalism is vividly audible. His two cadenzas for the Mozart piano concertos reflect Togni's endless admiration for his erstwhile teacher, the great pianist Arturo Benedetti Michelangeli.

Key Features:

- Pianist **Aldo Orvieto** has recorded and performed for the main European radio broadcasters, including the BBC, Rai, Radio France and German radio. He has a discography of more than 70 albums including his ongoing series of Togni's piano music on Naxos, all of which have garnered much critical acclaim. As a member of Ex Novo Ensemble, Orvieto appeared in a recording of Togni's chamber works (8.572074).
- Vol. 1 in the series is available on 8.572990, and Vol. 2 (8.572991) was selected in *Fanfare's* 'Want List': 'Orvieto plays [with] gusto and dedication, as well as delicacy when called for.' Vol. 3 (8.573430) received a positive response from *Ritmo*: 'These demanding and beautiful pieces test Aldo Orvieto, who shows his most brilliant and passionate side, executing them with great solvency and great doses of expressiveness.' The most previous instalment was released in 2018 (Vol. 4 on 8.573431).



© Luca Loro di Motta

LISTEN

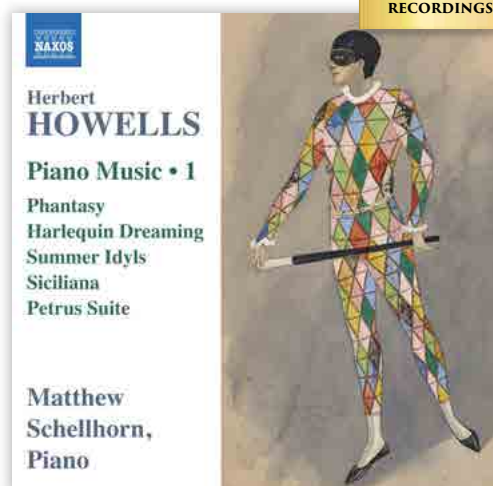
Click button to listen to an extract from

Fugato e allegro, Op. 7: Allegro: Allegro – Allegro moderato

Companion Titles – Previous releases in the Togni Piano Music series



8.573431 8.573430 8.572991 8.572990

WORLD PREMIERE
RECORDINGS


8.571382
Price Code:
NXP

7 47313 13827 2

Playing Time:
66:01
Release Date:
10 July 2020

Herbert HOWELLS (1892–1983)

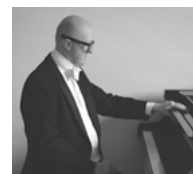
Piano Music, Vol. 1

Matthew Schellhorn, Piano

With this album, Matthew Schellhorn sheds new light on Herbert Howells as a truly significant 20th-century composer for the piano. From the charming *Summer Idyls*, written before the composer began studies at the Royal College of Music, to the mature and subtle movements of the *Petrus Suite*, we encounter an extraordinary range of pianistic expression. Spanning over 60 years of Howells' compositional style, every track on this release is a world premiere recording.

Key Features:

- Awareness of Howells' music for keyboard has until now rarely gone beyond his lovely collections *Lambert's Clavichord* and *Howells' Clavichord*. The sheer range of the pieces in this first volume reveal new dimensions to Howells' expressive range and the depth of his response to the death of his friend the composer Gerald Finzi, and of course to the tragic loss of his son Michael.
- Described as a pianist of 'searching intelligence and magnificent technique', British pianist **Matthew Schellhorn** has a distinctive profile displaying consistent artistic integrity and a commitment to bringing new music to a wider audience. He has recorded songs by Geoffrey Bush and Joseph Horowitz (8.571378) with soprano Susanna Fairbairn, and was admired by the *American Record Guide* for 'sensitivity and a feeling for the texts'.



© Laura Pannack

Companion Titles – Releases from the British Music Society



8.571378 8.571369 8.571367 8.571363-65

LISTEN



Click button to listen to an extract from
Summer Idyls: I. Meadow-Rest

IDIL BIRET ARCHIVE

Ludwig van BEETHOVEN (1770–1827)

Idil Biret Beethoven Edition, Vol. 20

Diabelli Variations, Op. 120 • 32 Variations, WoO 80

Idil Biret, Piano



'Love of Beethoven's works threads through Idil Biret's life like a red ribbon. Her studio recordings and live concerts show this in an unequivocal language... Next to all the Piano Concertos and the *Choral Fantasy* she has also performed on stage and recorded (on 19 DISCs) all the Piano Sonatas and Symphony Transcriptions becoming perhaps the only artist to reach this level of completeness... This knowledge of Beethoven one hears in every nuance in Idil Biret's playing.'

– **PIANO NEWS** (Germany) 2012

'Idil Biret not only recorded all nine of the Beethoven symphonies in less than a year but, in a superhuman feat which astounded all those who know about music she also publicly performed all of them in four recitals at the Montpellier Festival in France. To learn and also memorise scores of such length and difficulty in such a short time is a mind-boggling achievement.'

– **FONO FORUM** (Germany) 1986

'Idil Biret, who arriving in Paris at the age of seven astonished Alfred Cortot, Wilhelm Kempff and Marc Pincherle, remains a remarkable pianist who combines brilliant technical skill with the subdued touch, the interior voices, of her mentor Cortot... At her Paris recital, Beethoven's *Sonata Op. 106 'Hammerklavier'* brought us the fighter, armed from top to toe, like a valiant Clorinde, combining the most beautiful of styles with a fabulous virtuosity.'

– **LE MONDE** (France) 1981

'Talent is what Idil Biret has in prodigious measure. The Turkish pianist made that clear from the start of her recital at Alice Tully Hall on Tuesday night, when she made light of the technical and musical difficulties in Beethoven's *32 Variations in C minor*.'

– **NEW YORK TIMES** (USA) 1975



8.571407

7 47313 14077 0

Playing Time:
66:21
Release Date:
24 July 2020

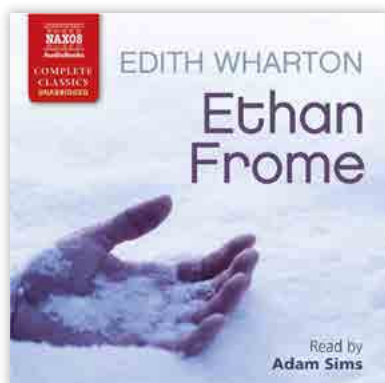
Companion Titles – Previous releases from Idil Biret Archive



8.504055 8.506035 8.571401-02 8.571403

New Releases from NAXOS AUDIOBOOKS

* Naxos Audiobook releases are only available for streaming and download.



NA0421 *

Playing Time: 3.5 Hours

Ethan Frome

By Edith Wharton

Unabridged

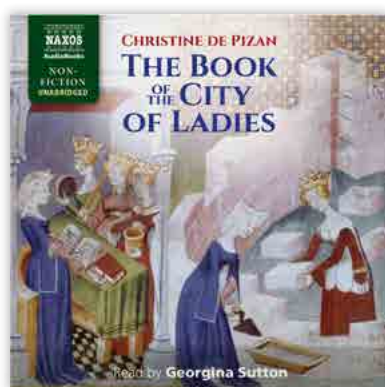
Read by Adam Sims



Set deep in the remote countryside of Massachusetts, New England, in a world of small-town prejudice, pettiness and rural poverty, the story of *Ethan Frome* explores the crippling marriage of a young man to an older woman and his love for her vibrant young cousin, Mattie, who lives as a dependent in the Frome household. His feelings lead to a day of explosive emotions with tragic consequences. Published in 1911, two years before Wharton divorced her husband, the novel integrates the raw experiences of the author's own life to create a powerful tale of the tragic destruction of innocent love, in a stark, compressed and unified form. Over time, the book has gained the reputation of being Edith Wharton's best work.

Companion Titles – Adam Sims, Reader

NA0323 | NA0313 | NA0206 | NA0043



NA0456 *

Playing Time: 11.25 Hours

The Book of the City of Ladies

By Christine de Pizan

Unabridged

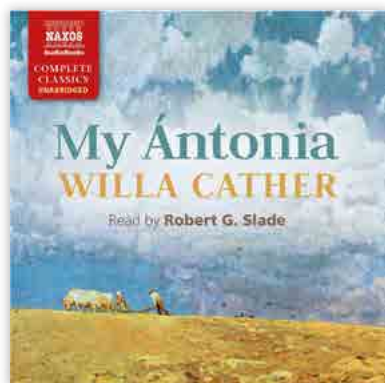
Read by Georgina Sutton



Shocked and distressed by a male writer's vilification of women, Christine de Pizan has a powerful dreamlike vision in which she is visited by three personified Virtues: Reason, Rectitude and Justice. They tell her she has been chosen to write a book which will be like a city, housing virtuous women and protecting them from feminist attack. Heroines past and present form the foundations of this city – biblical and mythical heroines, ruling queens, Christian saints, and inventors are among them. Partly myth, partly fact, *The Book of the City of Ladies* is an extraordinary, pioneering and impassioned defence of women that set out to shatter medieval misogynist clichés, and serve to instil self-worth in its female readers of the time.

Companion Titles – Non-Fiction Titles

NA0455 * | NA0414 * | NA0407 * | NA0370 *



NA0457 *

Playing Time: 9 Hours

My Ántonia

By Willa Cather

Unabridged

Read by Robert G. Slade



Orphaned at the age of 10, Jim Burden moves to Nebraska to live with his grandparents. There he meets Ántonia Shimerda, the daughter of an immigrant family from Bohemia, who have come to carve out a life for themselves in the harsh and bountiful Nebraskan landscape. At the urging of her father, Jim teaches Ántonia English and together they share adventures that will bind them throughout their lives, despite the vicissitudes of time and fate, and years of separation. The final book in Willa Cather's Great Plains trilogy, *My Ántonia* is a lyrical tribute to the bygone pioneer life and the struggles and successes of America's early settlers.

Companion Titles – Robert G. Slade, Reader

NA0379 * | NA0374 *



NA0458 *

Playing Time: 10.25 Hours

Cousin Bette

By Honoré de Balzac

Unabridged

Read by Lucy Scott



Lisbeth Fischer has lived in the shadow of her beautiful cousin Adeline for much of her life. Pampered while Lisbeth works in the fields, Adeline makes an enviable leap in status when Baron Hulot offers her his hand in marriage. Out of kindness, they bring Lisbeth to Paris, where she falls in love with the artist Wenceslas, her protégé. However, when she is jilted for Adeline's daughter Hortense, her jealousy and rage exponentially intensify, and she resolves to bring the Hulot family to ruin, employing the cold seductress Valérie Marneffe as her vehicle for revenge. A classic tale of obsession, self-destruction and unabated desire, *Cousin Bette* is a blazing portrayal of libertine France, and the fatal excesses which drive the novel to its dark end.

Companion Titles – Honoré de Balzac, Author

NA0326 | NA0367 *

Companion Titles – Lucy Scott, Reader

NA0412 * | NA0365 *