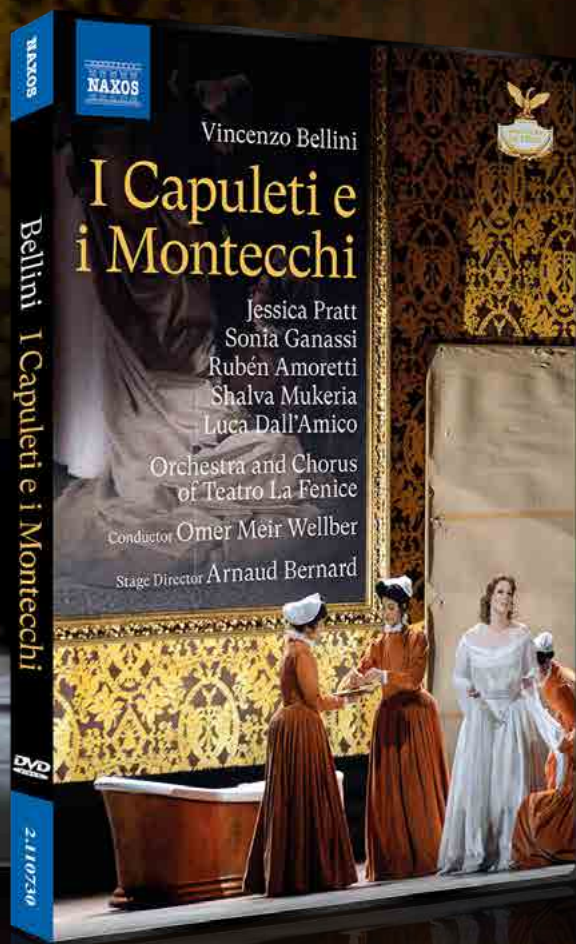




NEW ON NAXOS

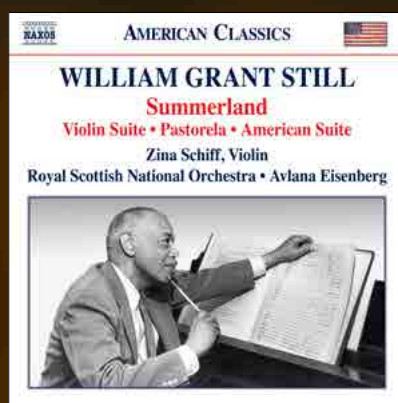
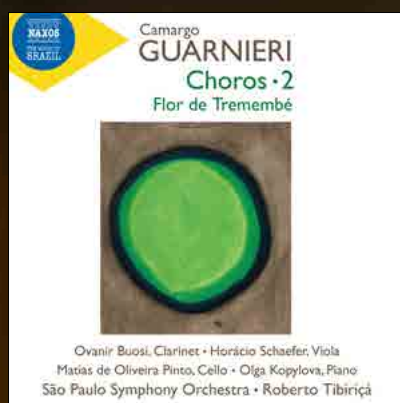
The World's Leading Classical Music Label

MAY 2022



Jessica Pratt as Giulietta
© Michele Crosera

This Month's Other Highlights



All album covers and artwork PDFs are available for download on the [Naxos Wiki](#)

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Vincenzo BELLINI (1801–1835)

I Capuleti e i Montecchi

Tragedia lirica in two acts

Libretto by Felice Romani

Jessica Pratt, Soprano • Sonia Ganassi, Mezzo-soprano
Shalva Mukeria, Tenor • Rubén Amoretti and Luca Dall'Amico, Basses
Orchestra and Chorus of Teatro La Fenice
Omer Meir Wellber, Conductor • Arnaud Bernard, Stage Director

Vincenzo Bellini's first great operatic success *I Capuleti e i Montecchi* is based on an Italian version of *Romeo and Juliet* in which the feuding clans seek reconciliation through the wedding of Giulietta and Tebaldo. Giulietta's lover, Romeo, begs her to elope with him, but fate has other plans for the couple. Topped with the 'agile coloratura runs and lyrical grace' (*The New York Times*) of soprano Jessica Pratt, this acclaimed production takes place in the historical and beautifully atmospheric Teatro La Fenice, the same venue in which *I Capuleti e i Montecchi* had its triumphant premiere in 1830.

Key Features:

- Bellini's *I Capuleti e i Montecchi* has proven increasingly popular on stage in recent years, and we are delighted that this fine Teatro La Fenice production adds to our own *bel canto* listings. Collectors will be drawn to this venue, as it brings this opera back to its place of origin in 1830. With its strong cast and filmed to the highest production values, this is a release set to become a popular and durable choice in this classic narrative of love, dramatic tensions and the deepest tragedy.
- Critical acclaim for this 2015 production: 'Jessica Pratt is, quite simply, phenomenal. Pratt is a convincing actress too, looking the part in her flowing locks and plunging gowns... Sonia Ganassi doesn't quite have the same glamour in the mezzo-soprano trouser role of Romeo, but she has a vital part to play and proves to be more than capable for the vocal and dramatic challenges of the role, and gives an impressive performance, working well with Jessica Pratt. Those are the roles that really matter here, but there were good performances also from Luca Dall'Amico as Lorenzo, Shalva Mukeria as Tebaldo and Rubén Amoretti as Giulietta's father Capellio. Omer Meir Wellber conducted the orchestra of La Fenice with a good balance between the lyrical content and the dramatic edge to Bellini's music' (*OperaJournal*).



Omer Meir Wellber

© James Stack



© Michele Crosera

2.110730
Playing Time: 136 minutes
Picture format: NTSC 16:9
Sound format: PCM stereo
Language: Italian
Subtitles: Italian, English, German, French,
Japanese, Korean
Region code: 0 (Worldwide)
No. of disc/s: 1 (DVD 9)
Price Code: OB
Release Date: 13 May 2022



Also available on Blu-ray Video:

NBD0149V
Playing Time: 136 minutes
Picture format: HD 16:9
Sound format: PCM stereo
Language: Italian
Subtitles: Italian, English, German, French,
Japanese, Korean
Region code: A, B, C
No. of disc/s: 1 (BD 50)
Price Code: OB
Release Date: 13 May 2022



Supplementary Marketing Materials:

- Video Trailer
- Sales Sheet
- Facebook cover and post

Companion Titles – Vincenzo Bellini, Composer



2.110598-99
(NBD0093V)



8.660417-18

Companion Titles – Other releases from Teatro La Fenice



2.110234-35



2.110225-26



Giacomo PUCCINI (1858–1924)

La Bohème

Opera in four acts

Libretto by Giuseppe Giacosa and Luigi Illica

after Henry Murger's *Scènes de la vie de bohème*

Marita Solberg and Jennifer Rowley, Sopranos

Diego Torre, Tenor • Vasily Ladyuk, Baritone

The Norwegian National Opera Orchestra

Eivind Gullberg Jensen, Conductor • Stefan Herheim, Stage Director

Set in the artistic but impoverished milieu of early 19th-century Paris, the tragic love of the poet Rodolfo and seamstress Mimi is one of the most affecting in all opera. *La Bohème's* arias are also some of the most intensely passionate Puccini ever wrote, making it one of the best-loved of all his works. In what *Opera News* called a 'thorough rethinking and brilliant re-creation' this exceptional Oslo production, strongly cast and conducted, and staged by internationally acclaimed director Stefan Herheim, explores the work as never before to create what *The New York Times* called an 'ultimately haunting' experience.

Key Features:

- This 2012 Oslo Opera House production was described as a 'surreal, moving experience' by *The New York Times*. *The Opera Quarterly* added that director Stefan Herheim 'has reminded us what the plot of *La Bohème* is really about and forced us to reflect both upon the opera's ugly realities and upon our own blindness to it.'
- Gramophone* also praised the cast: 'The cast's singing is clearly invigorated by these fresh staging ideas... Tenor **Diego Torre** has a wonderfully robust high C; soprano **Marita Solberg** is a stylistically Italianate as any Mimi I've ever heard. Don't schedule any social engagements after watching this. You might not be in any shape to keep them.'
- Equally at home on the concert platform and the opera stage, **Eivind Gullberg Jensen's** opera highlights include *Tosca* (Wiener Staatsoper), *The Rake's Progress* (Finnish National Opera), *Der fliegende Holländer* (Opéra de Lille), *Jenůfa* (English National Opera), *Rusalka* (Teatro dell'Opera di Roma), *Il corsaro* (Opernhaus Zürich), *Fidelio* (Mahler Chamber Orchestra and Bayerische Staatsoper, and as part of the Festspielhaus Baden-Baden) as well as *Eugene Onegin* and *La Bohème* (Den Norske Opera).



© Mat Hennek



Diego Torre as Rodolfo and Marita Solberg as Mimi
© Norwegian National Opera, 2015

2.110728

Playing Time: 118 minutes

Picture format: NTSC 16:9

Sound format: PCM stereo and DTS 5.1

Language: Italian

Subtitles: Italian, English, German, French,
Japanese, Korean

Region code: 0 (Worldwide)

No. of disc/s: 1 (DVD 9)

Price Code: OB

Release Date: 13 May 2022



Also available on Blu-ray Video:

NBD0148V

Playing Time: 118 minutes

Picture format: HD 16:9

Sound format: PCM stereo and DTS-MA 5.1

Language: Italian

Subtitles: Italian, English, German, French,
Japanese, Korean

Region code: A, B, C

No. of disc/s: 1 (BD 50)

Price code: OB

Release Date: 13 May 2022



Supplementary Marketing Materials:

- Video Trailer
- Sales Sheet
- Facebook cover and post

Companion Titles – Giacomo Puccini, Composer



2.110374-77
(NBD0052-54)



2.110266
(8.660253-54)



8.573501



São Paulo Symphony Orchestra
© Alessandra Fratus

Camargo GUARNIERI (1907–1993) Choros, Vol. 2

Flor de Tremembé

Ovanir Buosi, Clarinet • Horácio Schaefer, Viola
Matias de Oliveira Pinto, Cello • Olga Kopylova, Piano
São Paulo Symphony Orchestra
Roberto Tibiriçá

In his *Choros*, Guarnieri wrote music that conjures up the landscape and essence of Brazil. These very personal concertos reveal the composer's refined instrumental combinations and elegant contrapuntal writing, while their dance rhythms are vivacious, drawing on the *baião*, *maracatu* and *embolada*. The *Choros* in this second volume represent all stages of Guarnieri's compositional development. Also included is the delightful and inventive *Flor de Tremembé*, an early work with choro-like features. The first volume is available on 8.574197.

Key Features:

- This release serves as conductor **Roberto Tibiriçá's** Naxos debut. He received in 2010 and 2011 the XIII and XIV Carlos Gomes Award as Best Symphonic Conductor for his work with the Symphonic Orchestra of Minas Gerais.
- The previous volume (8.574197) received a *Scherzo* 'Excepcional' award. *Fanfare* also commented: 'The performances are excellent. The soloists are members of the São Paulo Orchestra – Davi Graton is also a renowned teacher – and Isaac Karabtchevsky boasts a long pedigree in conducting Brazilian music.'
- Guarnieri's six piano concertos are available in two separate discs. *Concertos Nos. 1–3* are on 8.557666, which *Gramophone* called 'a most encouraging issue... full of good tunes deftly orchestrated.' *Concertos Nos. 4–6* are on 8.557667: 'Barros delivers shoals of notes with unfaltering brio and a complete command of the idiom, and he is brilliantly partnered and recorded' (*Gramophone*).



© Paulo Lacerda

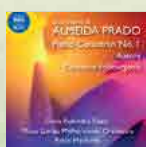
Supplementary Marketing Materials:

- Video Trailer
- eCard / Mini-site
- Facebook cover and post

Companion Titles – The 'Music of Brazil' series



8.574197



8.574225



8.574067



8.574018



8.574403

Price Code: NXP



Playing Time: 70:13

Release Date:

13 May 2022

LISTEN



Click to listen to
Choro for Viola and Orchestra: I. Enérgico

About the São Paulo Symphony Orchestra

The **São Paulo Symphony Orchestra** (OESP) was founded in 1954. Thierry Fischer has been principal conductor and music director since 2020, succeeding Marin Alsop (2012–19). In 2016, the orchestra performed at major European festivals, and in 2019 toured China and Hong Kong. In the same year it launched Carnegie Hall's *All Together: A Global Ode to Joy* project, performing Beethoven's *Ninth Symphony* with a new Portuguese translation of the *Ode to Joy*. In 2018, its recording of the symphonies by Villa-Lobos (Naxos 8.506039), conducted by Isaac Karabtchevsky, won *CONCERTO* magazine's Grand Prize and the Prêmio da Música Brasileira.



Royal Scottish National Orchestra
© Drew Farrell

WORLD PREMIERE
RECORDINGS

William Grant STILL (1895–1978)

Summerland

Violin Suite • Pastorela

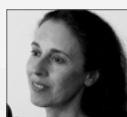
American Suite

Zina Schiff, Violin • Royal Scottish National Orchestra
Avlana Eisenberg

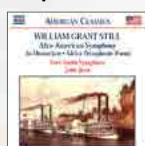
William Grant Still, the “Dean of Afro-American Composers,” was part of the Harlem Renaissance and wrote nearly 200 works including nine operas and five symphonies. Still's many awards included three Guggenheim Fellowships and eight honorary doctorates. His work combines Classical forms with jazz and blues idioms and was inspired by the rich tradition of African American spirituals. Still hoped that his music would serve a larger purpose of interracial understanding, and this joyous, moving and hauntingly beautiful program – featuring all world premiere recordings – is infused with Still's love of God, country, heritage, and even his mischievous dog Shep.

Key Features:

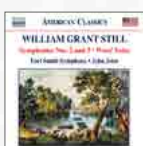
- Naxos already has several recordings of the music of William Grant Still, and this new programme of world premieres, is a notable addition to an already fine catalogue. This is certainly a release that will attract a great deal of attention for this always popular but by no means over-represented composer.
- Award-winning American violinist **Zina Schiff** is a Heifetz protégée who has made acclaimed appearances throughout North America, Eastern and Western Europe, Israel, Australia, and New Zealand. Her distinguished discography includes albums for Naxos such as Ernst Bloch's *Violin Concerto* (8.557757) which was considered ‘a wonderful disc’ by *ClassicsToday.com*. She has also recorded works for violin and piano by Cecil Burleigh (8.559061).
- Avlana Eisenberg** has conducted orchestras throughout the United States and in France, Germany, Austria, Scotland, Spain, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, and Hungary. Her extensive experience spans the orchestral and operatic repertoire as well as ballet, operetta, and musical theatre productions, and her discography includes recordings with the Budapest Symphony Orchestra MÁV.



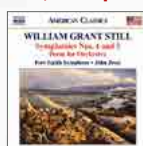
Companion Titles – William Grant Still, Composer



8.559174



8.559676



8.559603

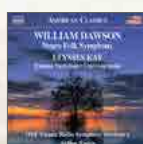
Companion Titles – African American Classical Music



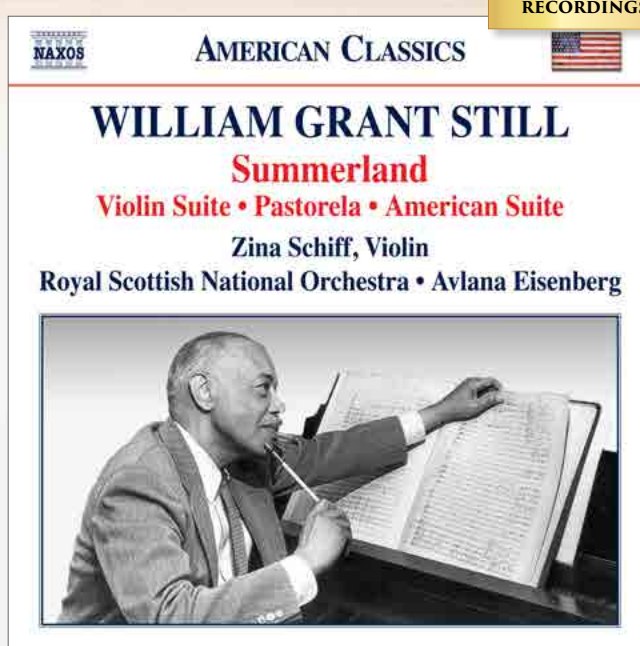
8.559827



8.559897



8.559870



8.559867
Price Code: NXP



Playing Time: 60:03
Release Date:
27 May 2022

LISTEN



Click to listen to
Can't You Line 'Em

About the Royal Scottish National Orchestra

Formed in 1891, the **Royal Scottish National Orchestra** (RSNO) is one of Europe's leading symphony orchestras. Many renowned conductors have contributed to its success, including Sir John Barbiroli, Sir Alexander Gibson and Neeme Järvi. Thomas Søndergård has been the orchestra's music director since 2018. The RSNO performs across Scotland and appears regularly at the Edinburgh International Festival and the BBC Proms in addition to international tours. Its numerous recordings for Naxos include acclaimed volumes of Samuel Barber's orchestral works, the complete symphonies of Sir Arnold Bax, and a significant contribution to Georg Tintner's much admired cycle of symphonies by Anton Bruckner (8.501205).

Supplementary Marketing Materials:

- Key Release Kit
- Facebook cover and post



Arabella String Quartet
© Ettore Causa

Joseph Bologne, Chevalier de SAINT-GEORGES (1745–1799)

Six Concertante Quartets

Arabella String Quartet

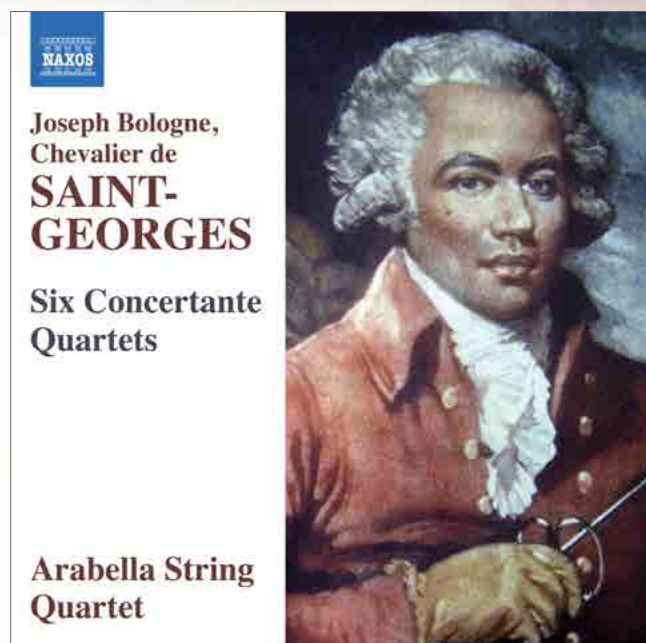
A brilliant swordsman, athlete, violin virtuoso and composer, Joseph Bologne, Chevalier de Saint-Georges might well lay claim to being the most talented figure in an age of remarkable individuals. The string quartet was still in its infancy in France in the 1770s, but while these pieces are small in scale they are exceptionally rewarding. Saint-Georges appreciated the intimate nature of this genre, avoiding overt soloistic virtuosity and exploring chamber music timbres, amply demonstrating his rich lyrical gifts and a natural ability to delight performers and audiences alike.

Key Features:

- Saint-Georges is best remembered today as the first known classical composer of African ancestry. His remarkably fine music has however received scant attention in recordings, and this new recording of the *Six Quartetto concertans* is part of our aim to redress this imbalance. When people are made aware of his work it is always warmly received.
- His violin concertos are represented by two Naxos releases, volume 1 (8.555040) of which provided 'a strong recommendation for the Chevalier's finely crafted music' for *ClassicsToday.com*, and volume 2 (8.557322) representing 'captivating performances of inexplicably neglected repertoire that would come highly recommended at three times the price' (*The Strad*).
- These have been followed by the *Symphonies Concertantes* (8.574306) released in September 2021 and admired for their 'grace and vigour' by *BBC Music Magazine*, as well as for 'performances [that] are joyous and enthusiastic, revealing commitment to this music.' (*MusicWeb International*)
- There are hardly any recordings of Saint-Georges' string quartets in the catalogue. This new release with the Arabella String Quartet need have no fear from any realistic competition.
- The scores and parts of Saint-Georges' *Six Quartetto concertans*, among other works, are available on Artaria.com.

About the Arabella String Quartet

The members of the **Arabella String Quartet** hail from around the globe, first meeting at Yale University in 2011. The quartet gave its debut concert in Boston in 2012, and in recent seasons has performed across the US at Charleston Music Fest, Chelsea Music Festival, the Hammond Performing Arts Series, Temple Emanuel Chamber Series, the Alton C. Bynum Recital Series, Mistral Music and the Cosmos Club and Chamber Music Kenwood society series. The Arabella Quartet's debut album, *In the Moment* (Naxos 8.579013), is an innovative programme that explores time, place and mood through a series of short pieces. It was named Album of the Week by *Classic FM*, and critically acclaimed in *The Strad*.



8.574360

Price Code: NXP



Playing Time: 52:43

Release Date:

27 May 2022

LISTEN



Click to listen to
Quartetto concertante No. 6 in B flat major: I. Allegro

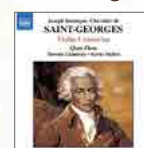
Companion Titles – Joseph Bologne, Chevalier de Saint-Georges



8.574306

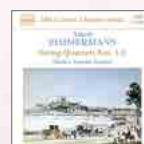


8.555040



8.557322

Companion Titles – 18th Century Chamber Music



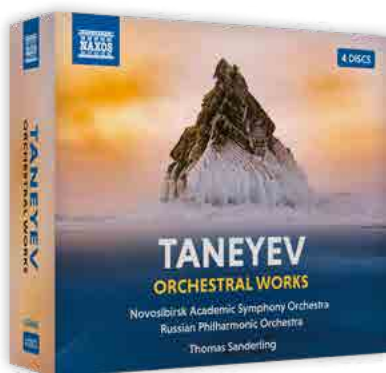
8.553952



8.570234



8.574054



Sergey Ivanovich TANEYEV (1856–1915)

Orchestral Works

Symphonies • Oresteia • Suite de concert

Cantata on Pushkin's 'Exegi Monumentum' • John of Damascus

Ilya Kaler, Violin • Novosibirsk Academic Symphony Orchestra

Russian Philharmonic Orchestra • Thomas Sanderling



7 47313 40603 6

8.504060 [4 Discs]

Export Price: EUR 10 (RoW) / USD 10.90 (USA)

SRP: EUR 29.99 / GBP 27.99 / USD 34.99

Release Date: 27 May 2022

Key Features:

- **Thomas Sanderling** and the **Novosibirsk Academic Symphony Orchestra's** acclaimed recording of Taneyev's four symphonies, his overtures and other works have remained a reference standard since their initial release.
- The original releases for this set received wide critical acclaim, with the *Symphonies Nos. 1 & 3* (8.570336) being 'perfectly recommendable' for *Gramophone*, with the playing admired for its 'strongly characterised performances' in *The Guardian*, and by *Audiophile Audition*: 'Thomas Sanderling (son of Kurt) and his excellent Siberian Orchestra have decided to give this music its due'.
- For *Suite de concert* (8.570527), *Fanfare* admired soloist **Ilya Kaler**, whose 'rounder tone and less excitable approach work well in the Taneyev'.
- Our contribution to Taneyev's renaissance has included five volumes of his complete *String Quartets* with the Carpe Diem Quartet, and the *Piano Trio in D major* played 'with elegance and brilliant musicianship' (*Gramophone* Editor's Choice) by The Brahms Trio (8.574115).



Thomas Sanderling



Ilya Kaler

Supplementary Marketing Materials:

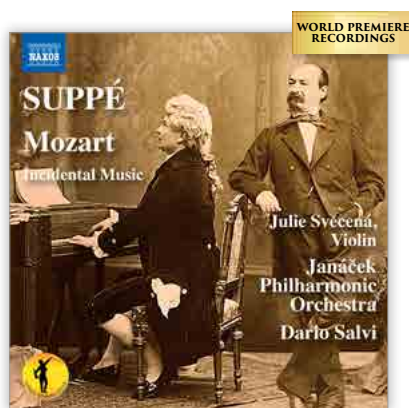
- Animated unboxing video
- eCard
- Facebook cover and post

LISTEN



Click to listen to

Symphony No. 2 in B flat major: III. Allegro



WORLD PREMIERE RECORDINGS

Franz von SUPPÉ (1819–1895)

Mozart – Incidental Music

Julie Svěcená, Violin • Pavel Rybka, Organ

Janáček Philharmonic Orchestra • Dario Salvi



7 47313 43837 2

8.574383

Price Code: NXP • Playing Time: 57:41

Release Date: 27 May 2022

Key Features:

- Conductor **Dario Salvi** is collaborating with Naxos on recording a series on Romantic ballets, including works by Minkus, Pugni, Adam and others. He has a long running series of Auber overtures – the most recent release is volume 5 which is on 8.574335, and about which *MusicWeb International* wrote: 'Expertly delivered performances add to our appreciation of Auber's considerable musical output.'
- *Gramophone* added: 'there's musical interest here aplenty. The melodic invention is winning, the orchestration is vivid and the **Janáček Philharmonic Orchestra** play with considerable polish for Dario Salvi, with shapely woodwind and violin solos, and a jaunty lilt to the dance rhythms in the various quadrilles and styriennes.'
- Salvi's Naxos discography includes world premiere recordings of operettas by Johann Strauss II. *Waldmeister* (8.660489-90) is an *Opera News* Critic's Choice – 'the performance is stylish and vibrant, with an energetic chorus and strong soloists' – while *Blindekuh* (8.660434-35) is summarised as 'an all-round pleasure' by *Jutarnji List*.
- Also available is his disc of stage music by Engelbert Humperdinck (8.574177), praised by *American Record Guide*: 'The performances are uniformly skilled and spirited. The orchestra plays with rich tone, constantly producing sweet, mellow sounds. Salvi conducts with a flexibility most effective for theater music.'



Companion Titles – Dario Salvi, Conductor



8.574177



8.660489-90



8.660434-35



8.660476

LISTEN



Click to listen to

Mozart – Incidental music: Act I: Concertino

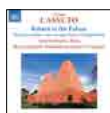


8.579130

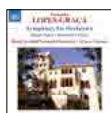
Price Code: NXP • Playing Time: 66:03

Release Date: 27 May 2022

Companion Titles – Portuguese Classics series



8.573266



8.572892



8.573495



8.573903

Three Portuguese Orchestras

BRAGA SANTOS • BRAHMS • CHABRIER GLINKA • MOZART • STRAUSS • WAGNER

Nova Filarmonia Portuguesa • Orquestra Sinfónica Portuguesa
Orquestrado Algarve • Álvaro Cassuto


7 47313 91307 7

Álvaro Cassuto's importance to Portuguese cultural life over the last half-century is immense. A significant composer as well as conductor (his music can be heard on Naxos 8.573266), he had already won the Koussevitzky Prize at Tanglewood when he was appointed deputy music director of the Lisbon Radio Orchestra in 1970. This album focuses on the three orchestras he established in later years, all of which set new levels of musical excellence in Portugal. The performances show how, across a variety of repertoire, he revolutionised orchestral standards of music-making in his country and how he personally spearheaded the revival of the music of Joly Braga Santos.

Key Features:

- **Álvaro Cassuto** began his career in 1959 as an avant-garde composer, and was the first Portuguese writer to adopt the twelve-tone system. Throughout his career he always took advantage of the opportunity to promote the orchestral music of Portuguese composers, also, with a variety of international orchestras, producing numerous recordings of these works for Naxos that were met with enthusiastic critical reviews.
- A disc of Cassuto's own compositions is available on Naxos 8.573266, described 'full of fantasy and colours and form an appealing programme' by *Pizzicato*. Also his recording of José Viana da Mota's *Symphony, 'À Pátria'* (8.573495) won 2016 Best Classical Music Achievement from the Sociedade Portuguesa de Autores.
- Other releases in our Portuguese Classics catalogue include a collection of cello concertos with soloist Bruno Borralhinho (8.573461), which received *The Violoncello Foundation* Listener's Choice Award. *Fanfare* said it is 'a delight from beginning to end: engaging, superbly played and recorded, and often very beautiful.'

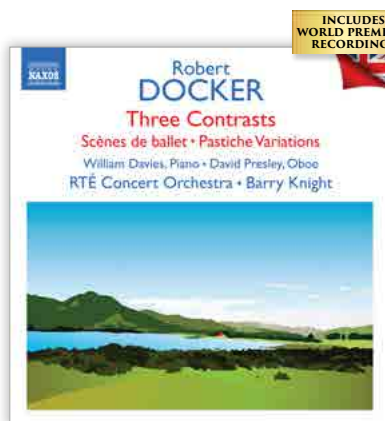


© Anita Ayash

LISTEN



Click to listen to

GLINKA, M.: *Ruslan and Lyudmila* – Overture


8.574322

Price Code: NXP • Playing Time: 78:38

Release Date: 13 May 2022

Companion Titles – Previous releases in the British Light Music series



8.555229



8.555190



8.555178



8.555194



8.555191



8.555172

Robert DOCKER (1918–1992)

British Light Music, Vol. 7

Three Contrasts • Scènes de ballet • Pastiche Variations

David Presley, Oboe • William Davies, Piano
RTÉ Concert Orchestra • Barry Knight


7 47313 43227 1

Robert Docker was one of the giants of light music – a composer and arranger whose works graced stage, screen, radio and television. Two of his best pieces were written for piano and orchestra: *Legend*, which can rank alongside Addinsell's *Warsaw Concerto* (Naxos 8.554323); and the brilliantly witty inventions of the *Pastiche Variations*. Not only was Docker a distinguished orchestrator, he was also a rich melodist as his classic *Scène du bal* illustrates, while the composer's impish humour can be savoured in *Tabarinage*. Docker's early training as a classical violist fully equipped him to explore the British pastoral tradition in the languid and beautiful *Air*.

Key Features:

- *Fanfare* wrote on its first appearance in 1995 (8.223837): 'This latest instalment in Marco Polo's 'British Light Music' series offers a virtual modern-day apotheosis of the venerable 'palm court' salon music of a century or more ago.' 'Excellent notes by conductor **Barry Knight**, who leads the **RTÉ Concert Orchestra** of Ireland in immaculate and idiomatic readings ... Another essential contribution to the recorded library of light concert music'.
- The orchestra has also recorded a series of incidental and ballet music by Sir Arthur Sullivan. The disc of ballet scores *L'Île Enchantée* and *Thespis* (8.555180) was acclaimed by *ClassicsToday.com* for their 'lively, refreshing performances ... There's not a dull or routine moment anywhere'.
- Other releases in the series include works by Richard Addinsell (famous for the *Warsaw Concerto*) on Naxos 8.555229. *The British Music Society* commented: 'Everything here sounds really rather splendid... It sounds good, the orchestra play with conviction, and the late lamented Kenneth Alwyn conducts with great sensitivity.'



RTÉ Concert Orchestra

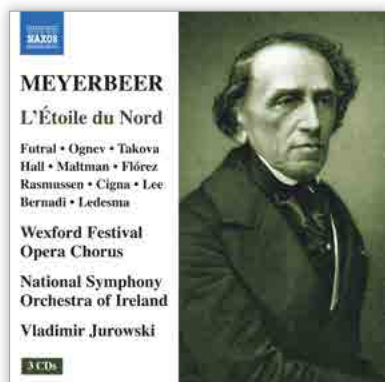
© Andres Poveda

LISTEN



Click to listen to

Scène du bal



8.660498-500 [3 Discs]
Price Code: NXP • Playing Time: 2:53:52
Release Date: 13 May 2022

Companion Titles – Giacomo Meyerbeer, Composer



8.660495-97 8.660245-47 8.660205-06

Companion Titles – Wexford Festival Opera



8.660144-45 8.660142-43 8.660146-47

Giacomo MEYERBEER (1791–1864)

L'Étoile du Nord

Opera in three acts • Libretto by Eugène Scribe

Sung in French

Elizabeth Futral, Darina Takova, Agnete Munk Rasmussen and Patrizia Cigna, Sopranos

Juan Diego Flórez, Aled Hall and Robert Lee, Tenors

Christopher Maltman and Luis Ledesma, Baritones • Vladimir Ognev and Fernand Bernadi, Basses

Wexford Festival Opera Chorus • National Symphony Orchestra of Ireland • Vladimir Jurowski

After composing a spectacular series of grand operas for the Paris Opéra, Meyerbeer turned to two comic operas with spoken dialogue. One of these was *L'Étoile du Nord* ('The North Star') which is strictly an *opéra de demi-caractère*, containing both comic and serious elements. This fusion was one of Meyerbeer's most important contributions to the development of grand opera. The plot is a peculiar mixture of village wooing and military life, with music that is full of colour, featuring superb choruses and exceptional orchestration. This 1996 Wexford Festival Opera production features a dazzling young cast under the direction of Vladimir Jurowski.

Key Features:

- This acclaimed Wexford Opera production originally appeared on Marco Polo 8.223829-31 from 1997. Of it *BBC Music Magazine* praised **Vladimir Jurowski's** 'both vigorous and lyrical' conducting. *The Irish Times* also stated he 'secured some first-rate playing from the **Ireland NSO**. He didn't always keep a tight rein on ensemble between stage and pit, but apart from that his handling of the score lacked nothing in colour or vitality.'
- The cast list includes some great singers at the outset of their careers, such as the megastar Peruvian tenor **Juan Diego Flórez**, and baritone **Christopher Maltman** whose extensive discography includes the GRAMMY-nominated *Wozzeck* from Dutch National Opera (2.110582 / NBD0081V).
- Also available is the world premiere recording of Meyerbeer's *Romilda e Constanza* (8.660495-97), in which 'this much-needed release will give opera lovers and music historians lots to think about and lots to enjoy.' (*American Record Guide*)



Vladimir Jurowski



Juan Diego Flórez



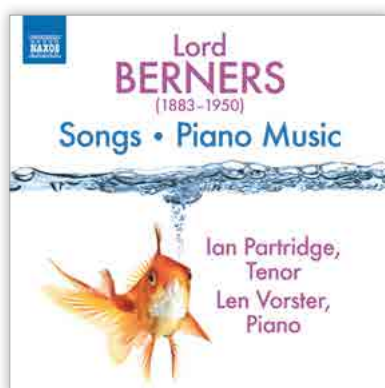
Christopher Maltman

LISTEN



Click to listen to

Act I – *Prière et Barcarolle: Veille sur eux toujours* (Catherine, Chorus)



8.554475
Price Code: NXP • Playing Time: 51:45
Release Date: 13 May 2022

Companion Titles – Lord Berners, Composer



8.660510 8.574370



8.555222 8.555223

Lord BERNERS (1883–1950)

Songs • Piano Music

Ian Partridge, Tenor • Len Vorster, Piano

Lord Berners was essentially self-taught as a composer, profiting from experiences gained while travelling in Europe, and receiving advice and encouragement from Stravinsky. A tone of wit and humour is established in his masterful settings of Heine in the *Lieder Album*, and his subtle touch with the French language is well represented in the *Trois Chansons*. The *Fragments psychologiques* is a piano cycle that is both virtuosic and expressive. From mock parlour-song parodies to a poem about a dejected goldfish, Lord Berners' keen sense of observation and ironic view on life is here in abundance.

Key Features:

- Originally released in 2000 on Marco Polo 8.225159, this recording of Lord Berners' songs and piano music is still the only programme of its kind from this composer and a recording that was received with wide critical acclaim. 'Ian Partridge obviously relishes the many stylistic changes like a vocal chameleon, and his words are clear too. Len Vorster backs him up splendidly and is completely at home in the solo piano music. The recording is truthful, and this makes a fine introduction to an underrated composer who has a distinctive voice of his own' (*The Penguin Guide*).
- This album follows hot on the heels of our April 2022 re-release of *Le Carrosse du Saint-Sacrement* (8.660510), joining our ongoing revival of our catalogue of his excellent and highly enjoyable music. These have also recently included *A Wedding Bouquet* (8.555223) welcomed by *Classical Music Daily* for 'sparkling interpretations full of bouncy vigour and rhythmic intensity'; the same publication regarding *The Triumph of Neptune* (8.555222) as 'highly imaginative, upbeat and full of good tunes'.



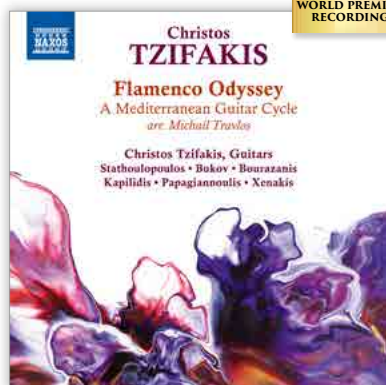
Ian Partridge

LISTEN



Click to listen to

Valse



WORLD PREMIERE RECORDINGS

Christos TZIFAKIS (b. 1969)

Flamenco Odyssey

A Mediterranean Guitar Cycle, arr. Michail Travlos

Christos Tzifakis, Guitars • Various Artists



Athens-born Christos Tzifakis has performed internationally as a solo classical guitarist and composed widely for solo guitar, flamenco-jazz groups and for the theatre. *Flamenco Odyssey* is one of his major works in which he allows the listener to experience flamenco from the vantage point of a traveller immersed in the timbres and flavours of both Eastern and Western cultures. The rhythms of the *bulería*, *soleá* and *fandango* offer intoxication as do improvisations on ancient Cretan songs. There are also darker, more melancholic impulses, while the festive nature of this wide-ranging and exhilarating work draws on blues-rock influences.

Key Features:

- The great Cuban composer Leo Brouwer wrote of **Christos Tzifakis**: 'Pay attention to Christos Tzifakis... His talent is supported by a remarkable technique... this young man plays with twenty fingers.'
- Tzifakis has composed pieces for solo guitar, flamenco jazz and theatre, and has transcribed various compositions from other instruments for the guitar, from J.S. Bach to Chick Corea. His work *Flamenco Alchemy* for chamber orchestra, solo guitar and flamenco-jazz group was choreographed by the renowned flamenco dancer Joaquín Grilo and premiered at Megaron Concert Hall Athens 2010.



© Valerios Ioannidis

8.579112

Price Code: NXP • Playing Time: 54:39
Release Date: 27 May 2022

Companion Titles – Greek Classics series

8.579115 | 8.579084

Companion Titles –
Mediterranean Guitar Music

8.574389 **NEW** | 8.574193

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Flamenco Odyssey: III. Telemachus Tango



WORLD PREMIERE RECORDINGS

Edward GREGSON (b. 1945)

Chamber Music

String Quartets Nos. 1 and 2 • Le Jardin à Giverny

Triptych • Benedictus

Benjamin Marquise Gilmore, Violin • Alison Teale, Cor anglais

Rob Buckland, Alto saxophone • Navarra Quartet



Edward Gregson is a composer of international standing whose music has been performed, broadcast, and commercially recorded worldwide. Gregson is renowned for his concertos and music for band, but his chamber music reveals a more enquiring voice. In recent years these works have been enriched with greater expressive and emotional depth, ranging here from youthful impressionism to the fearsome virtuosity of *Triptych*, a competition test piece. Gregson's *First String Quartet* was acclaimed by one critic as 'an extraordinary work, both gritty and serene', while the evocative colours of the *Second* are framed by the gentle lilt of a *Siciliana*.

Key Features:

Naxos have been focusing on **Edward Gregson's** chamber works such as the *Instrumental Music* (8.574224) in which he 'is at his most playful' (*BBC Music Magazine*), and his *Complete Music for Solo Piano* (8.574222). All of the string quartets on this recording by the **Navarra String Quartet** are recent works or recent re-workings of older pieces, and this is yet another attractively rich resource of world premieres on disc.



© Mircea Belei

Left to right: Sasha Bota, Bartosz Woroch,
Benjamin Marquise Gilmore and Brian O'Kane

8.574223

Price Code: NXP • Playing Time: 67:04
Release Date: 13 May 2022

Companion Titles –
Edward Gregson, Composer

8.574222 | 8.574224

Companion Titles –
British/English Chamber Music

8.502021 | 8.505225

LISTEN



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String Quartet No. 1: III. Not too fast, but with energy



Franz Joseph HAYDN (1732–1809)

Piano Trios, Vol. 6

Nos. 15, 32, 38, 39 and 40

Aquinas Piano Trio –

Ruth Rogers, Violin • Katherine Jenkinson, Cello • Martin Cousin, Piano



Haydn's 30 *Piano Trios* were written at a time when the harpsichord was being replaced by the pianoforte and when a parallel change saw the emergence of sonata-allegro form. His earliest trios, such as the *Trio in F major, Hob.XV:40*, were also known as *Divertimentos* or *Partitas*, whilst the *Trio in G major, Hob. XV:15*, was part of a group that offers the performer the alternative scoring of flute over the more usual violin. They reflect the airy and nimble qualities that grace all of Haydn's works in the genre.

Key Features:

Volume 5 (8.574361) is also played by the **Aquinas Piano Trio**. A *Fanfare* critic enthusiastically commented: 'The music really is quite fetching, filled with novel twists of phrase and artful charm made to sound ingenuous. As for the performances by the Aquinas Piano Trio, I love them. These players...know how to make this music sparkle with wit and touching emotion.'



© Alexa Kidd-May

Left to right: Ruth Rogers, Martin Cousin
and Katherine Jenkinson

8.574362

Price Code: NXP • Playing Time: 71:11
Release Date: 13 May 2022

Companion Titles – Haydn Piano Trios series

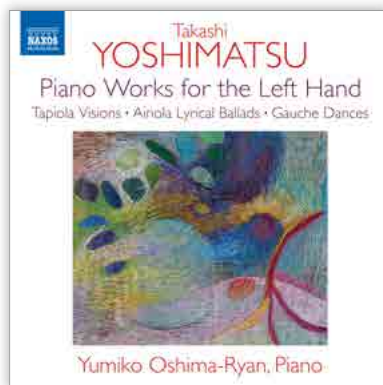
8.572040 | 8.572062 | 8.572063
8.573128 | 8.574361

LISTEN



Click to listen to

Piano Trio in G major, Hob.XV:15: I. Allegro



8.579121

Price Code: NXP • Playing Time: 51:31

Release Date: 13 May 2022

Companion Titles – Japanese Classics series

8.557819 | 8.570261 | 8.573595 | 8.573911

Takashi YOSHIMATSU (b. 1953)

Piano Works for the Left Hand

Yumiko Oshima-Ryan, Piano



Takashi Yoshimatsu's wide-ranging musical influences often combine jazz and rock elements with classical, folk and world music. This album focuses on a unique series of three solo piano works for the left hand, inspired by his great friend Izumi Tateno. These lyric and beautiful miniatures are saturated in nature and birdsong, as can be heard in the evocative *Tapiola Visions* and in the seven bouquets that form *Ainola Lyrical Ballads* which are dedicated to Sibelius. In *Gauche Dances*, we hear a sequence that includes the tango and boogie woogie, displaying how eagerly and ebulliently Yoshimatsu breaks boundaries.

Key Features:

- Naxos 8.555071 features an orchestral work by Yoshimatsu, *Threnody to Toki for String Orchestra and Piano, Op. 12*. *American Record Guide* wrote that 'if the rest is as good as this one, it'll be first class all the way,' whilst *Gramophone* said 'The orchestra is an excellent one, with much characterful solo playing, and the recording does it full justice.'
- There are two works by the composer for harmonica and guitar on 8.573595: 'I also found **Takashi Yoshimatsu's** *Forgetful Angel 2* fascinating for its exploration of sounds – the second movement has the pair playing temple bells and wind chimes' (*American Record Guide*).
- Pianist **Yumiko Oshima-Ryan's** first Naxos release was *From Afar – Contemporary Japanese Piano Music* on 9.70197 which included compositions by Takemitsu.



Yumiko Oshima-Ryan © Dave Ryan

LISTEN

Click to listen to

Gauche Dances, Op. 96: IV. Boogie Woogie


8.555502

Price Code: NXP • Playing Time: 55:40

Release Date: 27 May 2022

Companion Titles –
Sigismond Thalberg, Composer

8.553701 | 8.555498 | 8.555501

Sigismond THALBERG (1812–1871)

Fantasies on Operas by Donizetti

Francesco Nicolosi, Piano



Sigismond Thalberg was one of the most distinguished pianists of his time, embarking on a solo career in the 1830s and touring as far as the Americas. Thalberg was considered a rival to Liszt though their supposed animosity was largely a journalistic invention. The creation of transcriptions of popular operatic melodies and their transformation into virtuoso concert pieces was hugely fashionable, but Thalberg's treatments were also admired by Schumann for their Classical transparency, and for stylish technical innovations that saw him imitated throughout Europe. These fantasies on themes by Donizetti are full of the lyrical charm and drama of the original operas, combined with pianistic fireworks that delighted audiences worldwide.

Key Features:

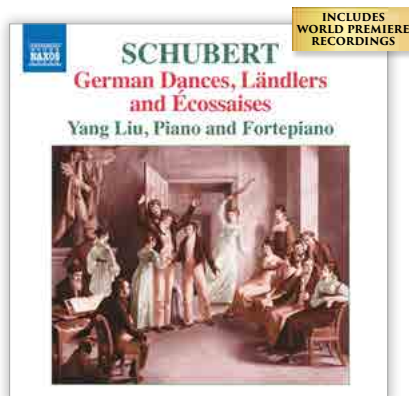
- Sigismond Thalberg is less of a household name than some other composers of the Romantic era, but connoisseurs will be aware of his *Piano Concerto* (8.553701) and other solo piano works in no small part due to the industrious artistry of pianist Francesco Nicolosi.
- Francesco Nicolosi** is one of the most distinguished pianists of the Italian tradition. He has performed in some of the most important concert halls and at prestigious festivals all over the world. Nicolosi's recordings of Thalberg and Liszt/Bellini *Paraphrases* received the Bellini Golden Prize. As president of the Sigismund Thalberg International Study Centre he has done intense research into the music of this legendary Austrian pianist.



© Giacomo Orlando

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Click to listen to

Fantasia on the Andante final de Luccia di Lammermoor, Op. 44


8.573941

Price Code: NXP • Playing Time: 75:22

Release Date: 27 May 2022

Companion Titles –
Franz Schubert, Composer

8.573707 | 8.574135 | 8.574145 | 8.574277

Franz SCHUBERT (1797–1828)

German Dances, Ländler and Écossaises

Yang Liu, Piano and Fortepiano



Schubert was known in his time primarily as a composer of songs, but he was also a master of the dance form and wrote prolifically for a middle-class society eager for domestic entertainment. He loved Ländler (triple time country dances), the Écossaises (supposedly Scottish), and the rich variety of genial German dances. Viennese pianos of the day produced a sound that was clear and transparent, very different from modern instruments, and in this recording Yang Liu plays on a Steinway grand and a copy of a mid-1820s fortepiano by Conrad Graf, a maker well known to Schubert.

Key Features:

- Pianist **Yang Liu** made her concerto debut at the age of 14 with the Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra. She has won many prestigious competitions, including the First Prize of the Toronto International Piano Competition. In this recital, she plays both piano and in some cases the fortepiano. She also plays her own completion of the fragment of the *Ländler in D flat major, D980c, No.2*.
- On 8.574277 you can find more lighter Schubert piano music. *ClassicsToday.com* wrote 'Daniel Lebardt perfectly captures the spirit of these works. He imbues repeats with subtle variations of touch and emphasis, and manages to bind together détaché phrases like strings of pearls ... Lovable stuff!'



© Jayan Sun

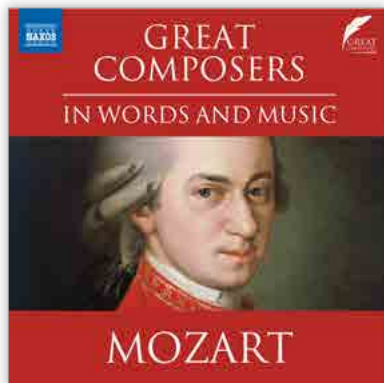
LISTEN

Click to listen to

12 Viennese German Dances, D. 128

IN WORDS AND MUSIC

This new series, *Great Composers in Words and Music*, consists of mini-biographies read by acclaimed actor and narrator Leighton Pugh and illustrated with musical excerpts. The biographies are full of fascinating detail and anecdote, and have been written in a highly approachable style by Davinia Caddy.



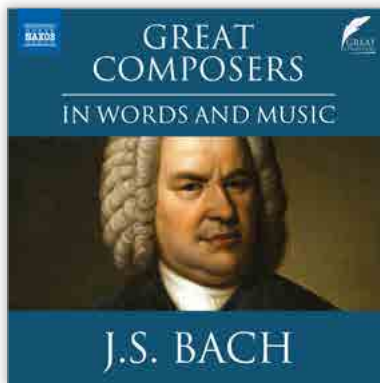
8.578361

Price Code: NXP • Playing Time: 71:45
Release Date: 13 May 2022



Wolfgang Amadeus MOZART (1756–1791)

Tchaikovsky declared that Mozart was ‘full of divine beauty’, and Schubert’s wonder at the ‘countless images of a brighter and better world’ that Mozart was able to conjure up through his music knew no bounds. Many of us carry the image of Mozart as a transcendent genius, but what do we really know about his life and career, and indeed his music? This entertaining and informative biography takes us from Mozart’s beginnings as a child prodigy to his greatest successes and cruellest setbacks. The narrative is illustrated with music from each stage of Mozart’s intense career, including the *‘Jupiter’ Symphony*, *Clarinet Concerto*, *Coronation Mass*, *Requiem*, *Don Giovanni*, *The Magic Flute*, *The Marriage of Figaro* and many more.



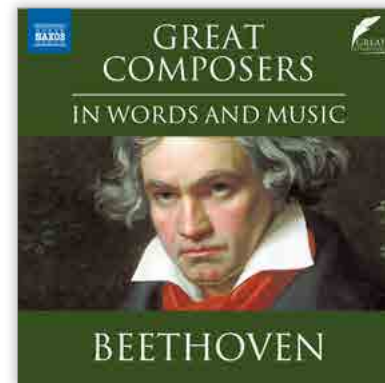
8.578362

Price Code: NXP • Playing Time: 67:45
Release Date: 13 May 2022



Johann Sebastian BACH (1685–1750)

Johann Sebastian Bach today has a reputation as the Godfather of Western European music, as a fountainhead of classical music theory and the creator of some of the greatest works the world has ever produced. Better known as a keyboard virtuoso, Bach was not regarded as a genius in his day, so how did this headstrong and belligerent but ambitious young musician become so extraordinarily productive? What were his influences? How did he end up in jail and what did he get up to in Café Zimmerman? Discover all of this and more in this fascinating biography of a composer who, to Max Reger, represented ‘the beginning and the end of all music’. The narrative is illustrated with musical excerpts including the *Brandenburg Concertos*, *Concerto for Two Violins in D minor*, *Harpichord Concerto in D minor*, *The Art of Fugue*, *St Matthew Passion* and the *Mass in B minor* among many others.



8.578363

Price Code: NXP • Playing Time: 67:50
Release Date: 13 May 2022



Ludwig van BEETHOVEN (1770–1827)

When we think of Ludwig van Beethoven images of a stormy and passionate but tortured genius are brought to mind, alongside the transformative effect of his work on musical history. All of these things are true, but no artist lives in a vacuum, and even music that opens a portal onto ‘the infinite realm of the spirit’ has its wider context. Illustrated with music from each period, this enlightening life history tells us about Beethoven’s place in society from his earlier career as a fine pianist, his life on the edge of the Napoleonic war, his professional triumphs and many romantic misfortunes, and that famous defiance of deafness and declaration that he would ‘seize Fate by the throat’. The musical excerpts include the *‘Pathétique’* and *‘Moonlight’ Sonatas*, *‘Diabelli’ Variations*, *Symphonies Nos. 2, 3, 6 and 9*, *‘Emperor’ Concerto*, *Missa solemnis* and *Fidelio*, among many others.

About Davinia Caddy, Author



Davinia Caddy studied music at the University of Cambridge, where she graduated with a BA (Hons), MPhil and, in 2005, a PhD. Her doctoral dissertation was broadly based on French musical culture from 1890 to 1914. She has since taught at the Universities of Oxford, Oxford Brookes and Auckland. Her books include *The Ballets Russes and Beyond: Music and Dance in Belle-Époque Paris* (Cambridge University Press, 2012), *Musicology and Dance: Historical and Critical Perspectives* (Cambridge University Press, 2020, co-edited with Maribeth Clark), and *How to Hear Classical Music*, a contemporary guide to the Western classical repertoire written for the general public (Awa Press, 2013).

About Leighton Pugh, Narrator



Leighton Pugh trained at LAMDA, after studying Modern Languages at Queen’s College, Oxford. His radio work includes the plays *Murder by the Book* and *Scenes from Provincial Life* for BBC Radio 4 and the voice of Heinrich von Kleist in the BBC Radio 3 documentary *The Tragical Adventure of Heinrich von Kleist*. Leighton has been in five productions for the National Theatre, most recently *The Lehman Trilogy* (NT Live 2018–19, New York, West End). For Naxos AudioBooks he has recorded, among other things, *The Diary of Samuel Pepys*, Zola’s *Germinal*, *Nana* and *L’Assommoir*, and featured in Walton’s *The Compleat Angler*.

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