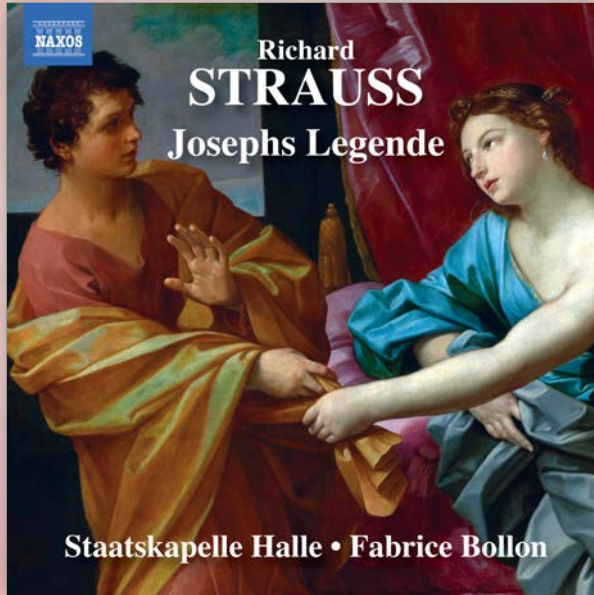
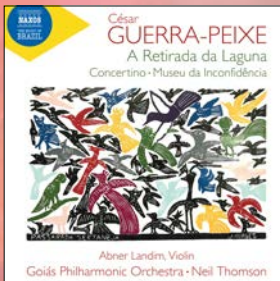


MARCH 2024



## This Month's Other Highlights





Fabrice Bollon  
© M. Korbel

**Richard STRAUSS (1864–1949)**

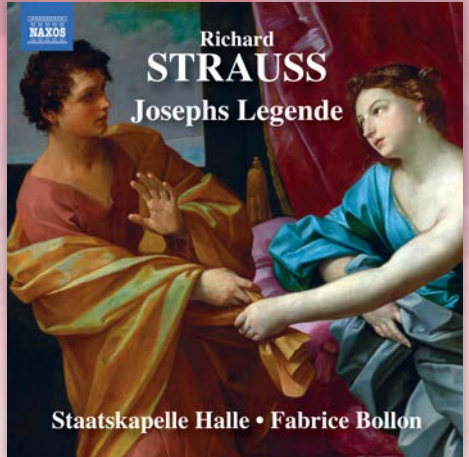
**Josephs Legende**

Staatskapelle Halle • Fabrice Bollon

Richard Strauss's single-act ballet *Josephs Legende* emerged in 1914 just as the world's attention was turning to war. But with its exotic instrumental colouring and the composer's intent to rejuvenate dance into a 'purely inspirational form' dedicated to 'absolute beauty', it reveals a great ballet composer and demonstrates his orchestral mastery to the full. *Josephs Legende* is a parable about struggles between good and evil based on the familiar Old Testament story of the slave boy Joseph. The work's dramatic tale is set with alluring sensuality expressed through Strauss's gift for soaring themes.

**About Fabrice Bollon, Conductor**

**Fabrice Bollon** has made numerous appearances with many renowned European orchestras, and from 2009 to 2021 served as general music director/chief conductor at Germany's Theater Freiburg, overseeing numerous recordings for Naxos including a remarkable interpretation of Korngold's *Das Wunder der Heliane* in 2018 (8.660410-12). His work in Freiburg garnered international acclaim, including Editor's Choice accolades in *Gramophone* magazine and *Diapason d'Or Awards*, among others. He has been chief conductor of the Staatskapelle Halle and general music director of the Halle Opera since August 2022. Bollon is also an acclaimed composer, and his operas *Oscar und die Dame in Rosa* and *The Folly* have been highly acclaimed by both critics and audiences. In 2020 his album of original compositions released on Naxos (8.574015) received a Choc de *Classica* award and an ICMA nomination.



8.574551

Release Date: 8 Mar 2024



Click to listen to

*Plötzlich tritt eine dumpfe Stille ein*  
('Suddenly there is an ominous stillness'): *Moderato*

**Key Features:**

- Not many associate Richard Strauss with the world of ballet, and *Josephs Legende* is one of his less well-known orchestral scores. There are a few recordings around, and our recording of the orchestral suite with the Buffalo Philharmonic conducted by JoAnn Falletta (8.572041), was considered 'utterly glorious' in *MusicWeb International*, but this work has long been overshadowed by the popularity of Strauss's other stage and orchestral pieces. A complete recording of this evocative work will be a major attraction amongst this year's new releases.
- The **Staatskapelle Halle** is one of the largest and greatest symphony orchestras in central Germany, and is traditionally deeply rooted in the world of concerts and music theatre productions. Fabrice Bollon has been its musical director and chief conductor since the 2022/23 season.



Staatskapelle Halle

© Felix Bönisch



Neil Thomson  
© Rafaela Pessoa

**César GUERRA-PEIXE (1914–1993)**  
**A Retirada da Laguna**  
**Concertino \* • Museu da Inconfidência**

Abner Landim, Violin \*  
 Goiás Philharmonic Orchestra • Neil Thomson

César Guerra-Peixe is one of the leading composers associated with musical nationalism in Brazil. *A Retirada da Laguna* is a programmatic suite that describes one of the most dramatic moments in the Paraguayan War of 1864–70, while his *Concertino* is a clever hybrid between folk music timbres and sophisticated high art ambitions. *Museu da Inconfidência* is one of the composer's most admired works, taking us through a museum of 18th-century rebellion and heroism. Guerra-Peixe's *Symphonic Suites Nos. 1 and 2* can be heard on Naxos 8.573925, acclaimed by *ClassicsToday.com* as 'absolutely world-class'.

**About Neil Thomson, Conductor**

Neil Thomson has been the principal conductor and artistic director of the Goiás Philharmonic Orchestra since 2014, leading the orchestra to national prominence with its championing of Brazilian and contemporary repertoire. He also enjoys a busy international career working with all the major UK orchestras and the Yomiuri Nippon Symphony Orchestra, Tokyo Philharmonic Orchestra, Tokyo Symphony Orchestra, Russian National Orchestra, São Paulo State Symphony Orchestra (Osesp), WDR Rundfunkorchester, Lahti Symphony Orchestra and the Romanian National Orchestra, among others. He has performed with many distinguished soloists including Dame Felicity Lott, Sir Thomas Allen, Sir James Galway, Nelson Freire, Jean Louis Steurman and Antonio Meneses.



8.573924  
 Release Date: 22 Mar 2024



Click to listen to  
 X. *Canção à fraternidade universal*

**Key Features:**

- This release joins César Guerra-Peixe's *Symphonic Suites* in the series (Naxos 8.573925), a recording much acclaimed by critics: 'Neil Thomson leads some sparkling performances from the Goiás Philharmonic, and the engineering allows instrumental detail to shine through' (*Gramophone*).
- Since its creation in 1980, the **Goiás Philharmonic Orchestra** has committed itself to promoting classical music in the Brazilian state of Goiás by placing particular emphasis on Brazilian music in its programmes. Neil Thomson was appointed principal conductor and artistic director in 2014, and under Thomson's leadership the orchestra has rapidly grown into an ensemble of national importance and is now widely regarded as one of the top three orchestras in Brazil.
- The orchestra has also recorded symphonies by Claudio Santoro for our 'Music of Brazil' series, joining forces with violinist **Abner Landim** in their second volume of this complete edition (8.574406) with its 'impressive and rarely heard works all played with absolute conviction and panache' (*Gramophone*).



**Companion Titles – The Music of Brazil series**





The cast of *Maskarade*  
© Monika Rittershaus

2.110762  
 Picture format: NTSC 16:9  
 Sound format: Dolby Digital 2.0 and DTS 5.1  
 Language: German  
 Subtitles: German, English, Japanese, Korean  
 Region code: 0 (worldwide)  
 No. of disc/s: 1 (DVD 9)  
 Release Date: 22 Mar 2024

**Carl NIELSEN (1865–1931)**

**Maskarade**

(sung in German)

Comic opera in three acts (1906)

Libretto by Vilhelm Andersen

based on a comedy by Ludvig Holberg

New German translation by Martin G. Berger

Monika Buczkowska, Susan Bullock, Sopranos  
 Michael Porter, Tenor • Liviu Holender, Baritone • Alfred Reiter, Bass

Chor der Oper Frankfurt

Frankfurter Opern- und Museumsorchester

Titus Engel, Conductor

Tobias Kratzer, Stage director

Nielsen's *Maskarade* is regarded as Denmark's national opera. It combines folk-song character, Mozartean elegance and virtuoso surprises to create what conductor Titus Engel describes as 'musical comedy that's both witty and of the highest calibre'. Based on an 18th-century play by Ludvig Holberg, the story revolves around Leander and Leonora who meet at a masquerade ball, swear undying love, and then have to deal with the complicated consequences of their situation, all accompanied by Nielsen's irresistibly sparkling score. This acclaimed contemporary staging from Oper Frankfurt is sung in a new German translation and directed by Tobias Kratzer.

**Key Features:**

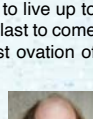
- With its lively dances, superbly acted and witty libretto, and Carl Nielsen's highly individual sense of harmony and lyrical expressiveness, this is a comic opera that 'has it all', having that rare quality in this genre of being genuinely funny. *Maskarade* has always had an exciting aura of freshness and discovery about it, and that frisson between neo-Classical modernity and 18th-century Enlightenment sensibility adds further dimensions to its wildly entertaining fascination.
- This 2021 Frankfurt production received critical acclaim: 'The cast was solid, led by the German bass **Alfred Reiter** as Jeronimus, with a flexible voice, well-emitted bass and a controlled register that he showed with intelligence of means and an ideal performance. The American tenor **Michael Porter** showed the light of a showy timbre, with great ease in the entire upper third... The winner of the evening was the Austrian baritone **Liviu Holender** as Henrik... Full voice, smooth colour of full lyrical baritone, convincing actor, he knew how to live up to a committed and central role, he was the last to come out to say hello and received the loudest ovation of the night' (*plateamagazine.com*).
- '**Titus Engel** highlighted Nielsen's magnificent orchestration with a sufficiently agile and transparent work, which shone even more than in the overture, in the other orchestral passages, such as the beautiful prelude to the second act – splendid woodwinds – with a lyricism that contrasted appropriately with the fast-paced finale of the first act...' (*codalarlo.com*).



Michael Porter



Liviu Holender



Titus Engel



**Also available on Blu-ray Video:**  
 NBD0174V  
 Picture format: HD 16:9  
 Sound format: PCM Stereo and  
 DTS-HD Master Audio 5.1  
 Language: German  
 Subtitles: German, English, Japanese,  
 Korean  
 Region: A, B, C  
 No. of disc/s: 1 (BD 50)  
 Release Date: 22 Mar 2024



**Richard WAGNER (1813–1883)**  
**Die Walküre**

*Nina Stemme, Elisabeth Teige, Sopranos*  
*Brandon Jovanovich, Tenor • Iain Paterson, Bass-baritone*  
*Orchestra of the Deutsche Oper Berlin*  
*Sir Donald Runnicles, Conductor*  
*Stefan Herheim, Stage director*

Wagner's *Der Ring des Nibelungen* ('The Ring of the Nibelung') comprises four operas of which *Die Walküre* ('The Valkyrie') is the second, famous for its spectacular set-pieces such as the Ride of the Valkyries and Wotan's Farewell. The plot focuses on the lovers Siegmund and Sieglinde and on the disobedience of the Valkyrie Brünnhilde, who defies the edict of Fricka, the goddess of marriage, to punish them. With *Die Walküre* Wagner achieved a perfect synthesis of poetry and music. Sir Donald Runnicles conducts an internationally acclaimed cast in this innovative new production by Norwegian director Stefan Herheim.



**Also available on Blu-ray Video:**  
 NBD0158V  
 Picture format: HD 16:9  
 Sound format: PCM stereo and DTS-HD MA 5.1  
 Language: German  
 Subtitles: German, English, French, Italian, Japanese, Korean  
 Region: A, B, C  
 No. of disc/s: 1 (BD 50)  
 Release Date: 8 Mar 2024



Nina Stemme as Brünnhilde  
 © Bernd Uhlig

2.110741-42  
 Picture format: NTSC 16:9  
 Sound format: PCM Stereo  
 Language: German  
 Subtitles: German, English, French, Italian, Japanese, Korean  
 Region code: 0 (worldwide)  
 No. of disc/s: 2 (1 DVD 9 and 1 DVD 5)  
 Release Date: 8 Mar 2024



**Key Features:**

- The individual operas from the acclaimed Deutsche Oper Berlin *Ring* cycle released in DVD (2.107001) and Blu-ray (NBD0156VX) sets on Naxos in November 2022 are now being made available to buy separately starting with *Das Rheingold* (2.110740 / NBD0157V) in February, then *Die Walküre* in March, *Siegfried* in April and *Götterdämmerung* in May.
- It is directed by the award-winning Norwegian director **Stefan Herheim** who is acclaimed as one of the most important directors of the moment, known for his emphasis on the historical contexts of ideas.
- Wagner expert **Sir Donald Runnicles**, in addition to working with the **Orchestra of the Deutsche Oper Berlin**, is currently continuing his *Ring* interpretations at the opera houses of Hamburg, Berlin, Vienna and San Francisco, and at the BBC Proms in London, the Edinburgh International Festival and The Metropolitan Opera in New York.
- The Hong Kong production of *Der Ring des Nibelungen* conducted by Jaap van Zweden is on 8.501403. It was a *Gramophone* 'Critic's Choice' of the year; 'Jaap van Zweden and the Hong Kong PO fuse Solti's energy, Karajan's chamber aesthetic, and Keilberth's vivid scene-building to forge a freshly minted, standard-setting and sonically beguiling *Ring* cycle. Furthermore, Matthias Goerne's Wotan is the best since James Morris and Hans Hotter'.



© Peter Erik Strømsted





INCLUDES WORLD PREMIERE RECORDING

**Florence Beatrice PRICE (1887–1953)**  
**Leo SOWERBY (1895–1968)**  
**Music for String Quartet**

*Avalon String Quartet*

8.559941

Release Date: 22 Mar 2024

**Companion Titles – American Classics titles**



8.559827



8.559897



8.559028



8.559851

**Key Features:**

- This recording is very much part of an encouraging rediscovery of Florence Price, the first African American female to have a symphonic work performed in Chicago back in 1933, coupled with Leo Sowerby's unpublished *String Quartet in G minor*. This is the kind of release that adds significantly to our knowledge of American classical music in the 1930s, topped off with the attraction of Price's better-known *Five Folksongs in Counterpoint* from 1951.
- Described by the *Chicago Tribune* as 'an ensemble that invites you – ears, mind, and spirit – into its music', the **Avalon String Quartet** has established itself as one of America's leading chamber music ensembles. In 2018 they released an acclaimed recording of the complete quartets of Matthew Quayle for Naxos (8.559851): 'Vividly recorded and thoughtfully annotated (by Quayle himself), this is a welcome introduction to a composer from whom one looks forward to hearing more' (*Gramophone*). In 2018 they have also recorded *Aqua* by Harold Meltzer for Bridge Records, a recording which received a GRAMMY nomination for Best Classical Compendium.



From left to right: Blaise Magnière, Cheng-Hou Lee, Marie Wang and Anthony Devroye

© Todd Rosenberg



Click to listen to **SOWERBY, L.: *String Quartet in G minor, H. 226: III. Slowly; rhapsodically***



WORLD PREMIERE RECORDING

**Johann Simon MAYR (1763–1845)**  
**Messa solenne in D minor**

*Anna Feith, Bogna Bernagiewicz, Sopranos • Freya Apfelstaedt, Alto*  
*Markus Schäfer, Fang Zhi, Tenors • Niklas Mallmann, Bass*  
*Simon Mayr Chorus • Concerto de Bassus • Franz Hauk*

Johann Simon Mayr's music stands on the cusp between the Classical and Romantic eras. The expressive lyrical qualities in his religious music reflects a career in which he composed nearly 70 operas. The *Messa solenne* follows the Italian tradition of *missa concertata* and contains the full ordinary – a rarity for Mayr's output in this genre. The work's polyphonic sections made an especially lasting impression on churchgoers of the time, as witnessed by Mayr's first biographer, Girolamo Calvi, who wrote enthusiastically about this work's 'exquisite vocal writing' and 'profoundly thrilling' virtuosity – qualities that have remained hidden for nearly 200 years.

**Key Feature:**

**Franz Hauk** is the world's leading expert and exponent of the music of Johann Simon Mayr, and his numerous new editions and recordings of operatic and other vocal works by this composer is internationally recognised as highly significant: 'Naxos's project of recording the major works of Simon Mayr is an extremely important event, introducing to most of us a composer of genuine individuality and importance' (*Fanfare* on the cantata *Arianna in Nasso*, 8.573065).



© Anna Götz



Click to listen to *Gloria in excelsis Deo*

**Companion Titles – Franz Hauk, Conductor**



8.574203



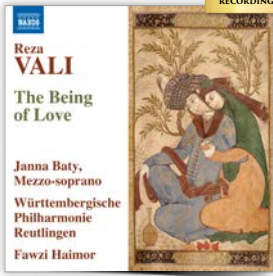
8.574057



8.573909



8.573782



8.579150  
Release Date: 22 Mar 2024

**Reza VALI (b. 1952)**  
**The Being of Love**

Janna Baty, Mezzo-soprano  
Württembergische Philharmonie Reutlingen • Fawzi Haimor

Award-winning composer Reza Vali is a native of Iran but is now based in the United States after studies in Europe. Vali's distinctive cross-cultural style is founded in a quiet rebellion that saw him return to his Persian musical heritage. Following the dazzling concert opener *Ravân*, Vali has taken a text by 13th-century poet and mystic, Rûmî, two traditional texts, and words by Vali himself, to create the moving cycle *The Being of Love*, with each song evoking a different aspect of love. *Isfahan* uses Persian modes and forms, and is among Vali's most striking microtonal works, pushing the orchestra beyond its usual twelve-note sound-world in an exciting way.

**Key Features:**

- **Reza Vali** has been described as the 'Persian Bartók', and as 'a composer of wonderful clarity, precision and effectiveness' in the *Pittsburgh Tribune-Review*. *The Being of Love* sees the release of three premiere recordings, all of which were commissioned and given their first performances by the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra.
- Also part of our *21st Century Classics* edition, *The Being of Love* joins a previous release of Vali's orchestral works on the Naxos label (8.557224) which includes *Folk Songs (Set No. 10)* and was much admired by critics. 'Vali's trademark mix of Persian and Western music makes for an unusual and evocative texture that is enormously appealing... The opulent sound and spirit of soprano Janna Baty, a Boston favourite who just finished a run in Boston Lyric Opera's *Così fan tutte*, is ideally captured here in a memorably thrilling performance' (*Boston Herald*).

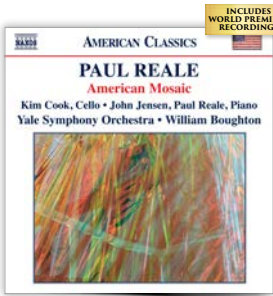
**LISTEN** ▶ Click to listen to  
*The Being of Love: No. 3. Sogvâreh*

**Companion Titles – 21st Century Classics**



8.557224 8.579023

8.574208 8.660424-25



8.559898  
Release Date: 8 Mar 2024

**Paul REALE (1943–2020)**  
**American Mosaic**

Kim Cook, Cello • John Jensen, Paul Reale, Pianos  
Yale Symphony Orchestra • William Boughton

Paul Reale's composing career blossomed in the last years of his life, but he was long held in high esteem as a renowned educator, and as a "mighty maestro with a unique expressive voice." The New Hampshire state motto "Live Free or Die," provided the impetus for Reale to finally complete his *Cello Concerto* in a mere 17 days, spurred on by a diagnosis of terminal illness. This work and the *First Piano Concerto* gestated over many decades, and both share Reale's signature toolbox of expressive melody, Baroque counterpoint, references to many types of jazz, and extensions of tonality. The program concludes with the *Sixth Piano Sonata*, each movement of which ties in with T.S. Eliot's poem *The Waste Land* but within a cinematic structure that departs from any traditional form.

**Key Feature:**

**Kim Cook** has performed to critical acclaim as a soloist in 30 countries in Europe, Asia, the Middle East, and Latin America, where she toured as Artistic Ambassador for the US State Department. Cook received enthusiastic reviews for her recordings, including the solo sonatas by Kodály, Crumb and Hindemith, and concertos by Dvořák, Haydn, Tchaikovsky, Saint-Saëns, Lalo and Shostakovich. Her recording of concertos by Schumann, Elgar and Strauss (*Don Quixote*) with the St. Petersburg State Symphony was released in 2018, as well as a recording of premieres of works by Paul Reale for Naxos, which received *Fanfare's* Top 5 Award for the year.



© Christian Stenner

**LISTEN** ▶ Click to listen to  
*Piano Concerto No. 1: III. –*

**Companion Titles – Paul Reale, Composer**



8.559820 8.559879

**Other piano concertos from the American Classics series**



8.559894 8.559930 8.559875 8.559824



8.669052-53

Release Date: 8 Mar 2024

Companion Titles –  
Opera titles in the American Classics series

8.669012-13 | 8.669049  
8.669001-02 | 8.669140-41

**Michael DELLAIRA (b. 1949)**

**The Leopard**

Opera in two acts (2018)

Libretto by J.D. McClatchy (1945–2018)

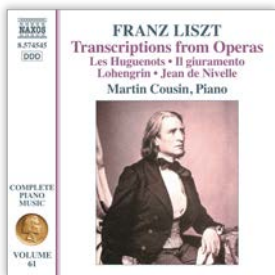
Yaqi Yang, Coloratura soprano • Margarita Parsamyan, Soprano  
Robynne Redmon, Mezzo-soprano • Minghao Liu, Frank Ragsdale, Tenors  
Kim Josephson, Baritone • Kevin Short, Bass-baritone

Frost Opera Theater • Alan Johnson, Music Director • Frost Symphony Orchestra • Gerard Schwarz

Michael Dellaira has earned a considerable reputation for his series of operas, of which the latest to be recorded is *The Leopard*. The libretto, by the distinguished poet J.D. McClatchy, is drawn from the 1958 novel written by Giuseppe Tomasi di Lampedusa. It charts social and political upheavals during the Italian Risorgimento and, as the young idealist Tancredi tells his uncle, the Prince of Salina, 'If we want things to stay as they are, things will have to change.' The opera's premiere, conducted by Gerard Schwarz, was exceptionally well received and described by *Opera Magazine* as 'superbly crafted.'



Click to listen to  
*Act I: Scene 5: Tancredi! I know it!*



8.574545

Release Date: 22 Mar 2024

Companion Titles – Previous recordings in  
Liszt's Complete Piano Music series

8.574095 | 8.574172 | 8.574147 | 8.574106

**Franz LISZT (1811–1886)**

**Complete Piano Music, Vol. 61**

Transcriptions from Operas

Les Huguenots • Il giuramento • Lohengrin • Jean de Nivelle

Martin Cousin, Piano

Nearly half of Franz Liszt's early output consisted of transcriptions and arrangements, filling out his virtuoso concert programmes with some of the grandest and most popular operas of the day. He cleverly weaves themes through a dramatic *Grande Fantaisie* on Meyerbeer's *Les Huguenots*, while the *Fantasia* on Mercadante's *Il giuramento* is a superb example of Liszt's flamboyant and virtuosic earlier style. All of these works require delicate brilliance and precision alongside a superb technique to meet their fearsome challenges – the *Rondeau fantastique* on Manuel García's *El contrabandista* is one of the most technically demanding pieces Liszt ever composed.



Click to listen to  
*Fantasia on Italian Operatic Melodies and Mercadante's  
Il giuramento, S458/R294 'Réminiscences de La Scala'*



8.579103

Release Date: 22 Mar 2024

Companion Titles – Other recordings  
featuring works by Cassadó and Mompou

8.572142 | 8.572647 | 8.579097 | 8.570457

**Gaspar CASSADÓ (1897–1966)**

**Federico MOMPOU (1893–1987)**

Complete Solo Guitar Works

Eugenio Della Chiara, Guitar

This album presents the complete solo works for guitar by two Catalan contemporaries, the cellist Gaspar Cassadó and the pianist Federico Mompou. Cassadó wrote six guitar works connected to his friendship with Andrés Segovia, mostly based on folk elements such as the *sardana*, a traditional Catalan circle dance. In Mompou's works for guitar, the influence of his mysticism and attachment to Catalan folklore are undeniable. He composed primarily for piano but he also wrote three pieces for guitar, notably *Suite compostelana* for Segovia. The hypnotic, austere and lyrical elements in this work distil Mompou's compositional genius.



Click to listen to  
CASSADÓ, G.: *Catalanesca*





INCLUDES  
WORLD PREMIERE  
RECORDINGS

**Fernando LOPES-GRAÇA (1906–1994)**  
**Songs and Folk Songs, Vol. 3**

*Susana Gaspar, Soprano • Nuno Vieira de Almeida, Piano*

Fernando Lopes-Graça, one of Portugal’s most prolific and innovative 20th-century composers, was steeped in the folk songs of various provenances. In this third instalment (the earlier volumes are on 8.579039 and 8.579082) Lopes-Graça sets some of the greatest of all Portuguese poets. His exploration of harmonic complexity and progressive writing is distantly rooted in Debussy and laced with other subtle French elements. Premiere recordings of the kaleidoscopic Old English and French songs, which run the gamut of emotions, are among his earliest settings of foreign folk songs.

**Key Feature:**

Vol. 1 of this series is on 8.579039: ‘This is a valuable offering and a worthwhile sortie into the work of a somewhat neglected composer’ (*American Record Guide*). ‘The recording is perfectly fine. ... This disc contains some beguiling repertoire and anyone who has been impressed by this composer’s large-scale orchestral works will find much to enjoy here’ (*MusicWeb International*).

8.579152  
Release Date: 22 Mar 2024

**Companion Titles –**  
**Fernando Lopes-Graça, Composer**

8.579039 | 8.579082 | 8.574373 | 8.572817



Click to listen to  
*Six Vieilles chansons françaises, Op. 50* (*Six Old French Songs*):  
*No. 6. La Vigne au vin* (*From Vine to Wine*)



**Franz Joseph HAYDN (1732–1809)**  
**for 2 hANDs 4**

*Alexandra Ivanova, Fortepiano*

Haydn’s creative imagination was stimulated by eminent Italian composers such as Porpora and Scarlatti and by his contemporary C.P.E. Bach, whose piano sonatas Haydn had performed. Through Georg Wagenseil, an important figure in Viennese music for the piano, he also absorbed a new sense of musical form. Together, these influences generated Haydn’s own individual language, as shown in the *Sonata in C major* with its elegance and wit. The *Andante con variazioni in F minor* shows further refinement and development in the composer’s command of variation form. Alexandra Ivanova performs on fortepianos from Haydn’s era, and plays both the primo and secondo parts in the sonata *Il maestro e lo scolare*.

8.551466  
Release Date: 22 Mar 2024

**Companion Titles –**  
**Franz Joseph Haydn, Composer**

8.574391 | 8.573934 | 8.573128 | 8.572040

**Key Feature:**

**Alexandra Ivanova** regularly performs in concerts throughout Europe and Russia. Her wide repertoire ranges from music of the 17th to the 21st centuries on various instruments such as the harpsichord, fortepiano, clavichord and piano. Born in Lake Baikal, Russia, Ivanova began her piano studies at the age of five with her mother, Natalia Ivanova. She made her orchestral debut at the age of eight with Mozart’s *First Piano Concerto, K. 37* with the local philharmonic orchestra.



© Martin Chiang



**GREAT COMPOSERS**  
**IN WORDS AND MUSIC**



VISIT THE SERIES MINI-SITE

**Robert SCHUMANN (1810–1856)**

*By Davinia Caddy • Read by Leighton Pugh*

The unresolved and ambiguous details of Robert Schumann’s psychological decline and death have tended to dominate his biography. Yet in his time Schumann was lauded as a protean Romantic literary genius whose writings, as a music critic, poet, novelist and dramatist, eclipsed his musical creativity. How did Schumann reconcile these elements? Does his music suggest he suffered from bipolar disorder? How did his pianist wife, Clara, influence his compositions? The narration is illustrated with some of Schumann’s finest works including excerpts from the symphonies, his song cycle *Dichterliebe*, the piano works *Papillon* and *Carnaval*, and the *Piano Concerto*, among others.

8.578375  
Release Date: 22 Mar 2024

**Companion Titles –**  
**Previous releases in the series**

8.578374 | 8.578361 | 8.578362 | 8.578363