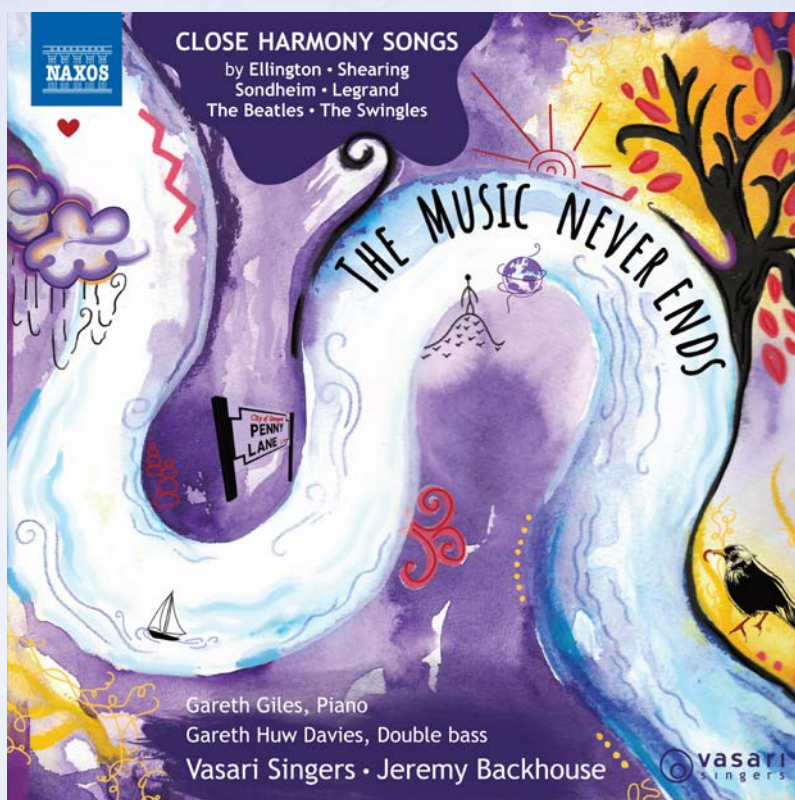


NEW ON NAXOS

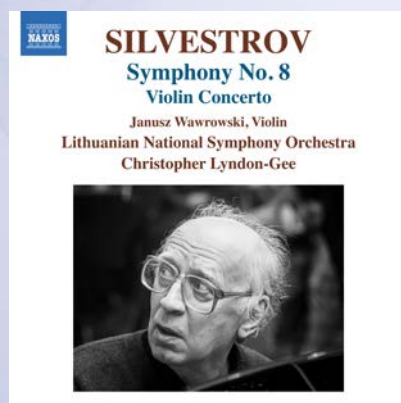
The World of Classical Music

JULY 2025

UK release dates: 11th and 25th



This Month's Other Highlights

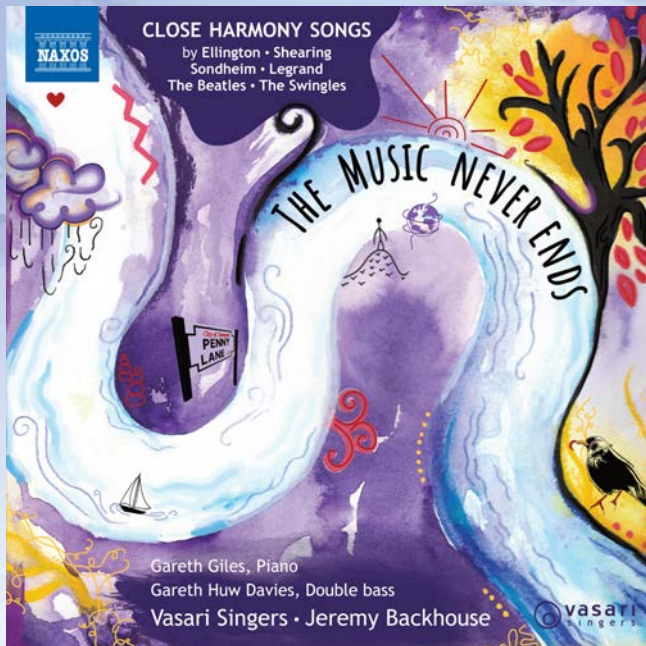


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8.574699


Release date:
11 Jul 2025

The Music Never Ends

Close Harmony Songs

by Ellington • Shearing
Sondheim • Legrand
The Beatles • The Swingles

Gareth Giles, Piano

Gareth Huw Davies, Double bass

Vasari Singers • Jeremy Backhouse

Close harmony singing is the vocal equivalent of a jazz big band, and this programme is the Vasari Singers' personal tour of a style in which they have excelled for years. Their connection with Ward Swingle and the pioneering Swingle Singers is explored in arrangements ranging from traditional folk songs such as the haunting *Danny Boy*, to favourites by The Beatles and the delicious harmonies of Stephen Sondheim. George Shearing's English musical background and American jazz influence combine in his *Songs and Sonnets from Shakespeare*, and the album closes with a cleverly integrated and up-beat version of Duke Ellington's classic *It don't mean a thing (if it ain't got that swing)*.

Key features:

- The **Vasari Singers** directed by Jeremy Backhouse is one of the UK's leading chamber choirs, and has been responsible for some of our most successful choral recordings, their album of *Great British Anthems* (8.572504) being described as 'essential listening' by *Gramophone*. In Gabriel Jackson's *Requiem* (8.573049), 'the Vasari Singers grip the work with evident relish and commitment' as reviewed by *BBC Music Magazine*. Their choral concert album *Heaven Full of Stars* (8.574179) was also much admired by the *American Record Guide*: 'the whole program is mesmerising and the performances are exquisite – perfect intonation, blend, expression, musicality, and sheer beauty of choral sound'.
- The Vasari Singers have also gained a significant following with their Christmas releases on Naxos, including the highly successful collection *A Winter's Light* (8.573030) which appeared back in November 2012, to be joined in October 2023 by *Music on Christmas Morning* (8.574542) which was admired in the *American Record Guide* as being 'performed beautifully. The Vasari Singers... produce an excellent traditional British choral sound. The joy the singers radiate is a tribute to Jeremy Backhouse's spirited direction'.



Jeremy Backhouse
© Sam Canetty-Clarke

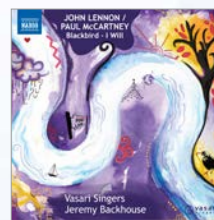
LISTEN

Click to listen to
SHEARING, G.: *Songs and Sonnets from Shakespeare:*
No. 3. *It was a lover and his lass*

About Jeremy Backhouse, Conductor

Jeremy Backhouse is one of Britain's leading choral conductors, and has been the sole conductor of the internationally renowned chamber choir Vasari Singers since its inception in 1980. Since winning the prestigious Sainsbury's Choir of the Year competition in 1988, the ensemble has broadcast frequently on BBC Radio and Classic FM, and has recorded a discography of over 30 highly acclaimed albums on EMI, Guild, Signum, Naxos and its own VasariMedia label. In 1995, Backhouse was appointed music director of the Vivace Chorus. Alongside the standard classical works, he has conducted the choir in a vast array of ambitious programmes, including sell-out performances at the Royal Albert Hall with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra.

DIGITAL PRE-RELEASE SINGLE



9.50343 *

Release date: 6 Jun 2025

John LENNON (1940–1980)
Paul McCARTNEY (b. 1942)
Blackbird – I will (arr. J. Rathbone)

* Only available for download and streaming



Vasari Singers

Companion titles – Jeremy Backhouse and the Vasari Singers



8.572504



8.573049



8.574179



8.573030



8.574542

WORLD PREMIERE
RECORDINGS**SILVESTROV****Symphony No. 8
Violin Concerto**

Janusz Wawrowski, Violin
Lithuanian National Symphony Orchestra
Christopher Lyndon-Gee



Valentin Silvestrov and Christopher Lyndon-Gee
© Inna Galatenko

8.574481



Release date:
11 Jul 2025

LISTEN



Click to listen to
Symphony No. 8: V. Moderato – Allegro vivace –

Valentin SILVESTROV (b. 1937)**Symphony No. 8****Violin Concerto ***

Janusz Wawrowski, Violin *

Lithuanian National Symphony Orchestra

Christopher Lyndon-Gee

Valentin Silvestrov was forced to leave his native Ukraine after the Russian invasion of 2022. His music has a prescient quality that unerringly seems to express the fate of his homeland. The intimate *Violin Concerto* and the heartfelt, single-span *Eighth Symphony* are notable for their economy of expression and emphasis on beauty, depth and harmony. This is music that hovers on the edge of silence in an uplifting homage to love and humanity, hope and renewal.

Key features:

- This release follows on from a previous recording on Naxos 8.574413 with violinist **Janusz Wawrowski** and the Lithuanian National Symphony Orchestra conducted by Christopher Lyndon-Gee. With the *Symphony for Violin and Orchestra 'Widmung'* as its main work, this release has received wide critical acclaim, with *BBC Music Magazine* commenting that 'Wawrowski is an eloquent exponent of the many lyrical passages... It's all strangely beautiful, and, at the same time, disconcertingly haunting.'
- The **Lithuanian National Symphony Orchestra** and Christopher Lyndon-Gee have also recorded Silvestrov's *Seventh Symphony* (Naxos 8.574123). This was considered 'a demonstration-class recording' and 'a very appealing release' in *Gramophone*, and a 'highly commendable release' by *MusicWeb International*.



© Bartek Barczyk

About Christopher Lyndon-Gee, Conductor

Internationally renowned conductor **Christopher Lyndon-Gee** is known worldwide for his catalogue of many dozens of recordings, almost all of these since 1994 with Naxos. These include the complete orchestral music of Igor Markevitch and of Edgard Varèse; most of the symphonies and orchestral works of George Rochberg (a project still in progress); and, since their first collaborations in Kyiv in 2016, the present series of music of Valentin Silvestrov. Other prize-winning recordings include the music of Hans Werner Henze, Ottorino Respighi, Dmitry Shostakovich, Larry Sitsky (his opera *The Golem*), Igor Stravinsky, Arthur Bliss and Richard Strauss.



Lithuanian National Symphony Orchestra
© Dmitri Matvejev

Companion titles – Christopher Lyndon-Gee and the Lithuanian National Symphony Orchestra

8.574413



8.574123



8.573282



8.573618



Dario Salvi

LISTEN



Click to listen to
Das Schloss am Aetna, Op. 95:
No. 4: Con forza (Tempo primo) – No. 5: Coda

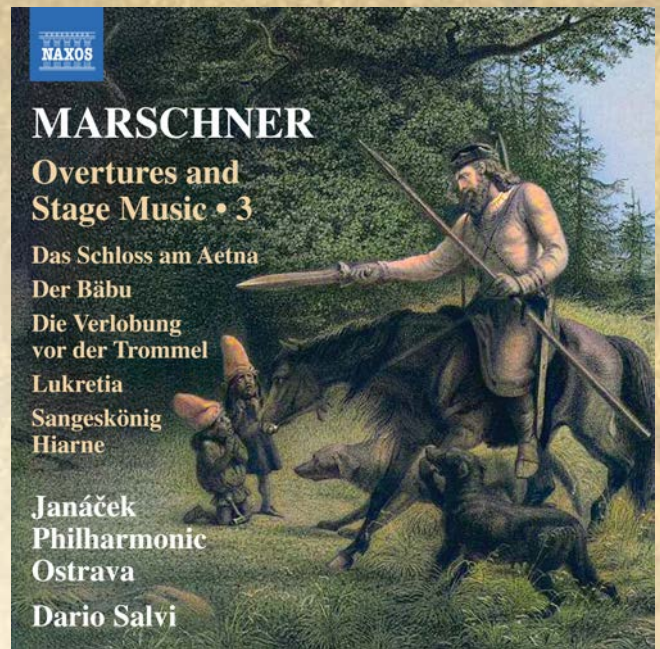
Heinrich August MARSCHNER (1795–1861) Overtures and Stage Music, Vol. 3 Das Schloss am Aetna Der Bäbu • Die Verlobung vor der Trommel Lukretia • Sangeskönig Hiarne

Janáček Philharmonic Ostrava
Dario Salvi

Heinrich August Marschner was a master of German Romantic music, and this third volume in the series presents excerpts from some of his later operas. These include *Das Schloss am Aetna* with its dark Faustian themes, and *Lukretia* in which the composer generates an air of Classical antiquity. Both *Sangeskönig Hiarne* and *Der Bäbu* showcase Marschner's talent with descriptive ballet music, allowing us to discover a completely new side to his musical craft.

About Dario Salvi, Conductor

Dario Salvi is a busy and respected conductor with a versatile and eclectic repertoire, which has been recognised through numerous awards and nominations, including the 2023 'Riccardo Drigo' Music for Ballet prize and a 2022 International Classical Music Awards nomination for the world premiere recording of Johann Strauss II's *Waldmeister* (Naxos 8.660489-90). His passion for the rediscovery and performance of long-forgotten masterpieces and the curation of world premieres has put Salvi in the spotlight around the world.



8.574483



Release date:
25 Jul 2025

Key features:

- Vol. 1 (Naxos 8.574449) launched this edition in December 2022 with the *American Record Guide* admiring the way 'the Czech Chamber Philharmonic plays its heart out. Dario Salvi seems to be making the rounds with music of this type, and he does a good job here. The sound is good too'.
- Vol. 2 (Naxos 8.574482) followed in October 2023 and was welcomed by *The Light Music Society*: 'Throughout this release the music is given committed performances by a wonderfully full-sounding orchestra and the solo sections (for cello, horns and violin) in the final track of the [disc] are all superbly executed. The orchestra and conductor are to be congratulated, as always, for bringing this music to the fore after a period of such neglect'.
- With numerous Naxos recordings to its name, the **Janáček Philharmonic Ostrava** is one of the leading symphonic orchestras of the Czech Republic which, and with its distinctive sound and progressive repertoire it is held in the highest esteem by audiences and critics alike.



Janáček Philharmonic Ostrava

© Dita Pepe

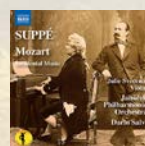
Companion titles – Previous releases in the series



8.574449



8.574482



8.574383



8.574597



8.574396



8.574335



Enea Scala as Cadmo and Maria Elena Pepi as Ada
© Gianfranco Rota



8.660580-81



Release date:
11 Jul 2025

LISTEN



Click to listen to

Act I: Recitative: Di Cadmo la consorte (Jafet, Tesbite, Noè) –
Scene 2 Sela? Tu piangi... (Noè, Sela)

Companion titles – Gaetano Donizetti, Composer



8.660578-79



8.660576-77



8.660565-66



8.660552-53

Gaetano DONIZETTI (1797–1848)

Il diluvio universale

Azione tragico-sacra in three acts (1830)

Libretto by Domenico Gilardoni (1798–1831)

Critical edition of the first version (Naples, 1830)

by Edoardo Cavalli

© **Fondazione Teatro Donizetti, Bergamo, 2022**

Giuliana Gianfaldoni, Soprano • Maria Elena Pepi, Mezzo-soprano

Enea Scala, Tenor • Nahuel Di Pierro, Bass

Coro dell'Accademia Teatro alla Scala

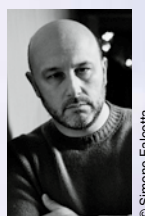
Orchestra Donizetti Opera

Riccardo Frizza, Conductor

Il diluvio universale ('The Great Flood') was premiered in Naples in 1830 but is better known in the much-revised version performed four years later in Genoa and Paris. The story, loosely drawn from the Bible, concerns Noah and his family, their conflicts, and the impending catastrophe of the flood. The opera offers a stream of attractive music, powerful choruses and refined harmonies, and represents a crucial stage in Donizetti's musical thought. This acclaimed 2023 Donizetti Festival performance, conducted by Riccardo Frizza, employs the original 1830 edition.

Key features:

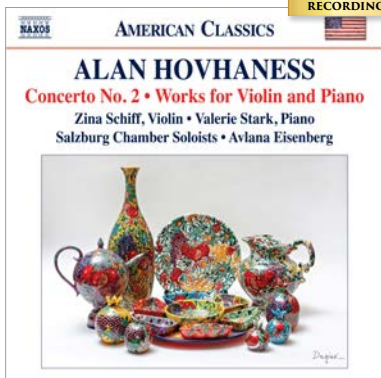
- 'With Italian conductor **Riccardo Frizza**, a first-rate opera specialist making a welcome Lyric podium debut,' wrote the *Chicago Tribune*, 'the performance boasted more than enough vocal thrills, elegant orchestral playing and committed choral singing'. The same review also praised 'the Italian conductor's marshaling of musical details as they related to dramatic expression – the color and duration of orchestral chording, for instance – was typical of his thorough understanding'.
- Bachtrack.com* wrote that 'the outstanding Argentinian bass **Nahuel Di Pierro**, whose fine, upstanding Noè was a perfect foil to the wily, treacherous Cadmo, sung convincingly with ringing power by seasoned tenor **Enea Scala**. And the beauty of **Maria Elena Pepi**'s beguiling mezzo-soprano as Ada ensured that she fought her corner'.
- The performance was available as an audiovisual release from Dynamic: DYN-38029 (DVD) and DYN-58029 (Blu-Ray).



Riccardo Frizza



Nahuel Di Pierro



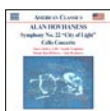
8.559957

Release date: 25 Jul 2025

Companion titles – Recommended releases in the American Classics series



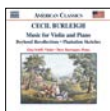
8.559336



8.559158



8.559867



8.559061

Alan HOVHANESS (1911–2000)

Concerto No. 2 †

Works for Violin and Piano

Zina Schiff, Violin • Valerie Stark, Piano

Salzburg Chamber Soloists • Avlana Eisenberg

† FIRST RECORDING ON CD

The music of Alan Hovhaness, one of America's most prolific composers, enchants with his signature synthesis of East and West. Influenced by his Armenian heritage and a fascination with nature and spirituality Hovhaness sought to create music "for all people, music which is beautiful and healing." This collection of works featuring the violin includes several premiere recordings. *Concerto No. 2*, one of a series of ten concertos for various instruments, requires the soloist and ensemble to play using distinctive effects including tone clusters, melisma, and playing without strict measure. Evocations of Armenian liturgy contrasted with dizzying Scottish jigs can be heard in the *Violin Sonata*.

Key features:

- This release joins an already substantial and highly popular discography of Alan Hovhaness's works in the Naxos catalogue, including symphonies and innumerable orchestral works from this most prolific of composers. The *Concerto No. 2 for Violin and Strings, Op. 89a* joins works such as the 'very attractive' (*ClassicsToday.com*) *Guitar Concerto* on Naxos 8.559336, and the early *Cello Concerto, Op. 17* (8.559158) regarded as revealing 'an inspired melodist and contrapuntalist' by the *Los Angeles Times*.
- The mother-daughter team of violinist **Zina Schiff** and conductor Avlana Eisenberg has previously appeared on our American Classics series with the music of William Grant Still (8.559867), which has become a real hit amongst collectors and critics. *The New York Times* considered it 'an enjoyable program that ought to spark more curiosity in this composer.'
- Acclaimed conductor **Avlana Eisenberg** is a passionately committed advocate for emerging and underrepresented American composers, new works, and making symphonic music accessible for all. She is music director of the Boston Chamber Symphony, and has led orchestras throughout the United States, Europe and the United Kingdom. Her recent discography includes a Naxos recording of world premieres by William Grant Still with the Royal Scottish National Orchestra, acclaimed by *The New York Times* and selected as Album of the Week by SiriusXM, and a Sibelius/Barber/Ben-Haim album with the Budapest Symphony Orchestra MAV, which was praised in *Gramophone* magazine.



LISTEN



Click to listen to

Concerto No. 2 for Violin and Strings, Op. 89a: I. Pastoral



8.579173

Release date: 11 Jul 2025

Companion titles – Mariusz Smolij, Conductor



8.573229



8.573800



8.579159



8.579085

Marta PTASZYŃSKA (b. 1943)

Double Concerto

Concerto Grosso • SE-TA (Sequenza e Tarantella)

Daniel Mieczkowski, Flute

Roksana Kwaśnikowska-Stankiewicz, Wojciech Koprowski, Violins

Zuzanna Elster, Anastasia Razvalyeva, Harp

Klaudiusz Baran, Rafał Grzaka, Accordions

Chopin University Chamber Orchestra • Mariusz Smolij



7 47313 91737 2

The Polish-born composer, Marta Ptasińska, studied under Nadia Boulanger and Olivier Messiaen, and since 1972 has worked in the United States where she forged cultural links between the two countries. Ptasińska has composed in all major genres and has worked with many leading musicians and ensembles. Her harmonic writing is often refined and translucent, with an expressive intensity generated through contrasts. The orchestral works in this album illustrate her gifts for creating evocative atmospheres. Dedicated to and premiered by Yehudi Menuhin, the *Concerto Grosso* explores Baroque archetypes.

Key features:

- Conductor **Mariusz Smolij** is a Polish music specialist and has recorded several acclaimed Naxos albums. *The New York Times* has written of his 'compelling performances'. His album of works by Polish composer Grażyna Bacewicz won a 2015 'Fryderyk' Award (Naxos 8.573229), the Polish equivalent of an American GRAMMY. In 2019 the president of Poland awarded him the Knight's Cross of the Order of Merit for the promotion of Polish culture.
- He has a long and successful series of recordings by Polish and other composers on Naxos, amongst them Bacewicz, Malawski and Paderewski but also a multi-volume series devoted to Hungarian Eugene Zádor. '[Smolij's] sense of nuance and his choice of tempos seem ideally suited to these works, and the performances suggest that everyone involved was in love with them. The orchestra plays magnificently. One could not ask for more from a performance. The recorded sound is excellent' (*Fanfare* on 8.573800).



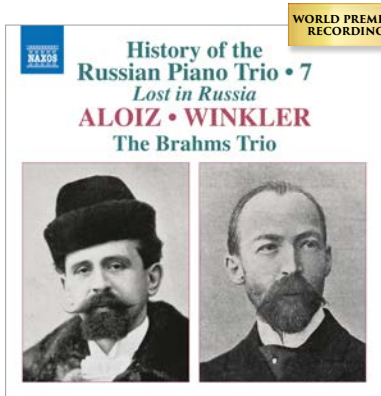
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SE-TA (Sequenza e Tarantella): Tarantella: Vivo, molto energico



WORLD PREMIERE RECORDINGS

8.574688

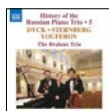
Release date: 25 Jul 2025

Companion titles –
Previous releases in the series


8.574114



8.574115



8.574116



8.574687

History of the Russian Piano Trio, Vol. 7

Lost in Russia

ALOIZ • WINKLER

The Brahms Trio



7 47313 46887 4

The two composers featured on this album worked in Russia during a period when it had become part of international musical culture, with many European musicians choosing to make a living there. Famous Czech cellist, Vladislav Aloiz, whose cosmopolitan *Piano Trio in F major* is an inspirational mix of beauty, passionate virtuosity and wit, moved to St Petersburg where he was awarded a professorship at the Conservatoire. Born in Kharkiv to an Austrian family, Alexander Winkler also found himself at the centre of Russian music at the turn of the century. The laconic themes of his masterfully written *Piano Trio in F sharp minor* are reminiscent of late Brahms.

Key features:

- The first part of our History of the Russian Piano Trio edition concluded with a fifth volume (Naxos 8.574116) released in July 2021, resulting in a highly collectable anthology which was the first of its kind. *Gramophone* concluded that 'together with the excellent fourth volume and the preceding three, this "History of the Russian Piano Trio" is a set to treasure'.
- The Brahms Trio** returns with its follow-up in May 2025 with a second part devoted to the Silver Age and Russian Art Nouveau. The first of these, (Vol. 6, Naxos 8.574687) contained core elements of the piano trio repertoire and of pre-revolutionary Russian music in the form of Rachmaninov's two *Elegiac Trios*.



Nikolai Sachenko, Natalia Rubinstein and Kirill Rodin

© Emil Maxev

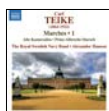
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WINKLER, A.: *Piano Trio in F sharp minor, Op. 17: II. Vivace*


8.574318

Release date: 11 Jul 2025

Companion titles –
Recommended band music releases


8.574317



8.559691



8.557545



8.579135

Carl TEIKE (1864–1922)

Marches, Vol. 2

Graf Zeppelin-Marsch

Hansa-Marsch

Heil Potsdam

The Royal Swedish Navy Band

Alexander Hanson



7 47313 43187 8

Carl Teike achieved great success at the beginning of his career with *Alte Kameraden* (available on Naxos 8.574317), renowned as the German 'march of marches'. Characterised by a clear structure, inventiveness and a wide range of tone colours, Teike's marches significantly enriched the German concert march genre. On this second of three volumes they range from the festive *Aus allen deutschen Gauen* ('From All Regions of Germany') composed for veterans, marches with patriotic titles such as *Der Kaiser kommt* and *Kaiser-Parole* or dedicated to major cities in Northern Germany, to *Die Welt in Waffen* ('The Weaponised World'), which gave rise to political scandal in its day.

Key features:

- This release is the second volume of a three-volume set in a comprehensive edition of Carl Teike's marches. Both of the first two volumes have been recorded with the excellent The Royal Swedish Navy Band conducted by **Alexander Hanson**, admired in Vol. 1 (8.574317) by the *American Record Guide* for its 'professional renditions that are crisp and balanced, with assured dynamic contrast'.
- The Royal Swedish Navy Band** has appeared on Vols. 11 and 12 of our American Classics edition of the *Music for Wind Band* of John Philip Sousa, of which Vol. 11 (8.559690) was considered 'another desirable addition to a very desirable series' by *MusicWeb International*.



© Jörgen Ragnarsson



© Jenny Leyman

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Treu Deutsch



8.574593

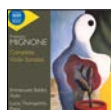
Release date: 25 Jul 2025

Companion titles –
The Music of Brazil series


8.574225



8.574591



8.574595



8.574486

Oscar LORENZO FERNANDEZ (1897–1948)

Piano Works

Suïtes Brasileiras Nos. 1, 2 & 3

Prelúdios do Crepúsculo

Sonata Breve

Clélia Iruzun, Piano



7 47313 45937 7

Oscar Lorenzo Fernandez belonged to a key group of Brazilian composers including Villa-Lobos, Mignone and Guarneri, who radically transformed the landscape of Brazilian classical music and shaped future generations of composers. Lorenzo Fernandez was essentially a miniaturist, with many of his piano pieces being both richly inventive and short in duration. From the Iberian sonorities of earlier pieces such as the expansive *Noturno*, via the nationalist flavours of the *Suïtes Brasileiras*, to his final piano work, the technically challenging *Sonata Breve*, Lorenzo Fernandez's refined sophistication and originality can be heard in every piece.

Key features:

- With her unique combination of a colourful Brazilian spirit and profound musicianship, pianist **Clélia Iruzun** has become one of the most exciting musicians to arrive on the international concert scene in recent years. This recording of works by Oscar Lorenzo Fernandez is her Naxos debut, but her much-admired discography embraces a variety of repertoire.
- Her most recent recording, *Piano Concertos* by Francisco Mignone and Isaac Albéniz with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by Jac van Steen was hailed by *International Piano*: 'Clélia comes into her vivid own, playing with a superb mastery and empathy; it is difficult to imagine it played with greater skill and affection'.



LISTEN



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Suïte Brasileira No. 1: III. Saudosa Seresta


8.579170

Release date: 25 Jul 2025

Companion titles – Spanish Classics



8.579012



8.574072



8.573548



8.570707

Manuel BLANCAFORT (1897–1987)

Complete Songs, Vol. 2

Cançons de muntanya

Cançons per a infants *

Cançons tradicionals catalanes **

Anna Alàs i Jové, Mezzo-soprano

Miquel Villalba, Piano



7 47313 91707 5

* WORLD PREMIERE RECORDING

** WORLD PREMIERE RECORDING OF ARRANGEMENT

Manuel Blancafort's music has a concise tonal directness that draws on his fondness for French composers. His *Cançons* are not simply evocative but embody an increasing use of the *Noucentist* aesthetic: the Catalan cultural movement of the early 20th century that was a reaction against *Modernisme*. Blancafort rejected the Romanticism and Wagnerian pathos of the modernist Lied in favour of Classicism and beauty – sentiments he shared with his Catalan contemporaries Toldrà, Gerhard and Mompou. Intimate, sensitive and playful, his Catalan songs connect both to his country's past and also to a wider European musical culture.

Key features:

- Vol. 1 in this series is on 8.579012: 'One would be hard pressed to imagine a more sympathetic interpreter of Blancafort's songs than the impressive Catalan mezzo-soprano **Anna Alàs i Jové**, whose keen artistry brings delicate nuance and subtle shadings to the Catalan texts', wrote *American Record Guide*.
- Pianist **Miquel Villalba** has recorded a sequence of five albums of Blancafort's piano music. Vol. 3 is on 8.557334 and is praised in *ClassicsToday.com*: 'Pianist Miquel Villalba upholds the reference standards he's set in Volumes 1 and 2. His warm tone, sensitive ear for nuance, and utterly natural phrase shaping almost are as addictive as the music itself'.



© Philip Brummader



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Click to listen to

Cançons tradicionals catalanes: Muntanyes regalades