

30 YEARS



# NEW ON NAXOS

The World's Leading Classical Music Label

MAY 2017



**Claudio  
MONTEVERDI**

**Madrigals Book 8**  
**Madrigali guerrieri  
et amorosi**

**Delitiae Musicae**  
**Marco Longhini**

**4 CDs**



## This Month's Other Highlights

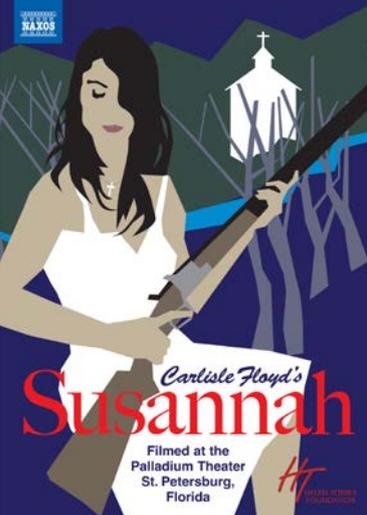


**DVOŘÁK**  
Mass in D  
Te Deum



Biegas • Rodríguez-Cusí • Tomé • López  
Orfeón Pamplonés  
Orquesta Sinfónica de Navarra  
Antoni Wit





*Carlisle Floyd's*  
**Susannah**

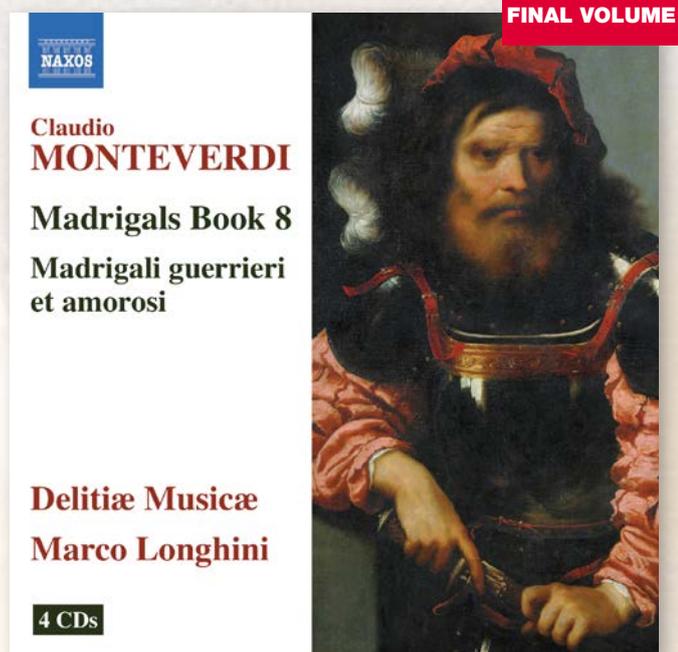
Filmed at the  
Palladium Theater  
St. Petersburg,  
Florida



**SAINT-SAËNS**  
Piano Concerto  
No. 3  
Africa  
Rhapsodie d'Auvergne  
Wedding Cake Waltz

Romain Descharmes,  
Piano  
Malmö Symphony  
Orchestra  
Marc Soustrot





8.573755-58

4 CDs

Price Code: NXP



Playing Time:

3:41:41



© Agnes Spaak

Marco Longhini

## Claudio MONTEVERDI (1567–1643)

### Madrigals, Book 8

#### Madrigali guerrieri et amorosi

*Delitiae Musicae*

Marco Longhini

The *Eighth Book of Madrigals*, subdivided into a substantial series of vocal and instrumental partbooks, contains some of Monteverdi's greatest music. In this sumptuous collection the material is carefully arranged by category into madrigals of war, love and those for the stage, with a wide array of human passions and compositional styles. This is the first recording to present *Book Eight* in its original, uncut form, also incorporating instrumental sinfonias and dances by Biagio Marini (1594-1663) to round off Monteverdi's design. In keeping with seventeenth-century practice, the madrigals are performed entirely by male voices, including a boy soprano in the role of Cupid.

#### Key Features:

- Marco Longhini and *Delitiae Musicae* are amongst the most distinguished and extensive exponents of Monteverdi's Madrigals before the public today.
- Of the previous Book 7 [8.555314-16] in this series, *Gramophone* wrote that it was "A zestful traversal of Monteverdi's monumental Madrigal collection."
- Of Book 6, released in 2007 [8.555312-13] *American Record Guide* wrote: "The performances are compelling, simultaneously controlled and imaginative."
- The edition used is specific for this recorded performance, which claims to be the most complete ever made of Book Eight. There are none of the cuts that are present in other recordings
- *Delitiae Musicae* have also made a distinguished and acclaimed set of recordings of Gesualdo's Madrigals for Naxos.

#### Supplementary Marketing Materials

- Key Release Kit
- Facebook cover and post

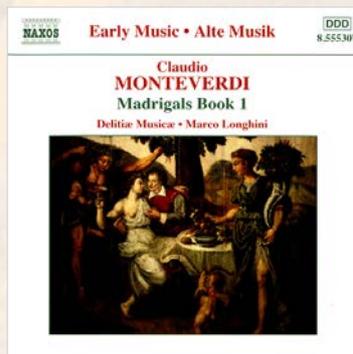
The *a cappella* instrumental and vocal ensemble *Delitiae Musicae* was established in 1992. It is considered one of the most enterprising Italian early music ensembles, with important recordings in the last ten years that include the *Missa Philomena Praevia* of Verdelot, four widely acclaimed albums (*Choc du disque* and *9 de Répertoire* in France, as well as the Spanish Five Stars Award) dedicated to Masses of Palestrina based on the compositions of the Flemish composer Cipriano de Rore, Lupus and Jacquet de Mantua. *Delitiae Musicae*, under **Marco Longhini**, has also recorded Adrian Willaert's *Vespro di Natale* (Editor's Choice, *Classica*, April 1999) and books of madrigals – *Pazzia senile & Saviezza giovanile*, *Studio dilettevole* and *Metamorfosi* – by Banchieri. The unconventional yet impassioned interpretations by *Delitiae Musicae* and Marco Longhini are seen as an important regeneration of Italian Renaissance and Baroque music. The ensemble is under exclusive contract to Naxos for the fourteen-CD collection of *Complete Madrigals* by Monteverdi and for a seven-CD collection of *Complete Madrigals* by Gesualdo.



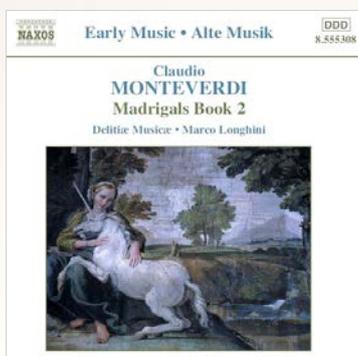
Delitiae Musicae

Previous releases from Delitiae Musicæ's Monteverdi Madrigals cycle

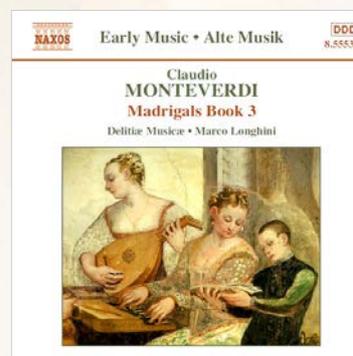
“For many music lovers the world over, the names of Monteverdi and Longhini are almost indissolubly linked. What is it that makes the link so strong? What does Longhini most love in Monteverdi? ‘Oh there are so many things! One thing I love is his ability to undermine a system that had been codified for centuries by delving into music’s capacity to touch people’s hearts...” – From Jeremy Siepmann’s 2012 interview with Marco Longhini



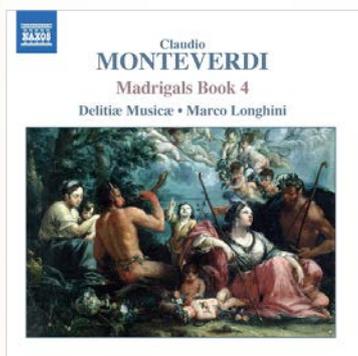
**8.555307**  
 “This release will appeal to the earnest Monteverdi collector.”  
 – *American Record Guide*



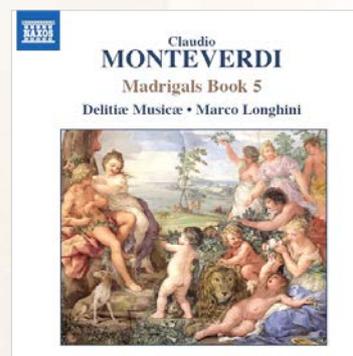
**8.555308**  
 “[These] performances are turning out to be the versions of choice—definitely worth serious attention.”  
 – *ClassicsToday.com*



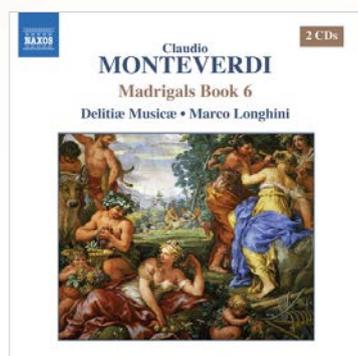
**8.555309**  
 “Deft technique, splendid ensemble blend and balance.”  
 – *ClassicsToday.com*



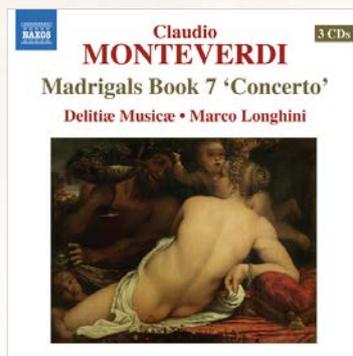
**8.555310**  
 “These are bracing and hugely enjoyable performances.”  
 – *International Record Review*



**8.555311**  
 “Clarity of diction, purity of tone and precision of ensemble.”  
 – *Limelight*



**8.555312-13 [2 CDs]**  
 “The excellence of execution continued to impress.” – *Fanfare*



**8.555314-16 [3 CDs]**  
 “A zestful traversal of Monteverdi’s monumental Madrigal collection.”  
 – *Gramophone*





© Juliusz Multarzyński

Antoni Wit

## Antonín DVOŘÁK (1841–1904)

### Mass in D\*

#### Te Deum

Ewa Biegas, Soprano • Marina Rodríguez-Cusí, Mezzo-soprano\*  
 Javier Torné, Tenor\* • José Antonio López, Baritone  
 Orfeón Pamplonés • Igor Ijorra Fernández, Chorus-master  
 Orquesta Sinfónica de Navarra • Antoni Wit

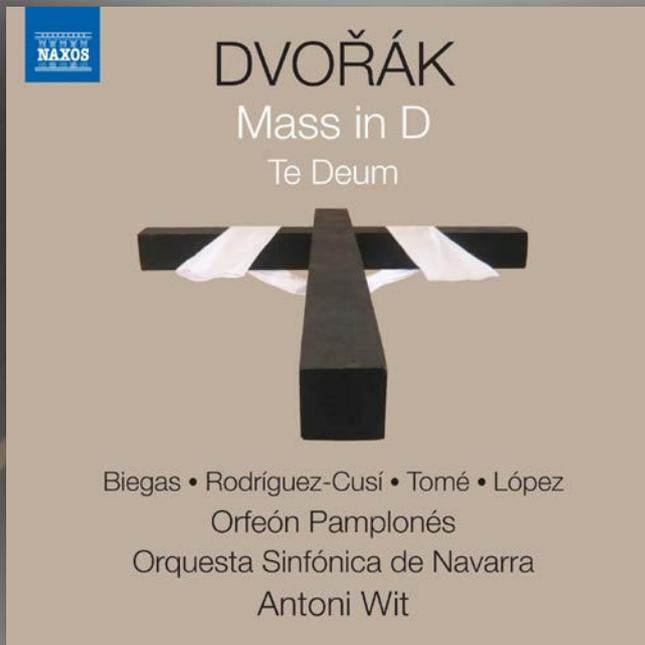
A native of Bohemia, Antonín Dvořák contributed much to the re-establishment of Czech national musical identity in the 19th century. It was the popularity of his choral music in England, however, that led to the development of the *Mass in D* from its smaller-scale original into a movingly dramatic and jubilant masterpiece with full orchestra. Dvořák's celebratory *Te Deum* is comparable in form to a four-movement symphony. Antoni Wit is considered by *ClassicsToday.com* to be 'the best conductor around these days for big choral works'. His acclaimed recording of Dvořák's *Requiem* is available on Naxos 8.572874-75.

Antoni Wit has made over 200 records, including an acclaimed release for Naxos of the piano concertos of Prokofiev, awarded the Diapason d'Or and Grand Prix du Disque de la Nouvelle Academie du Disque. In January 2002 his recording of the *Turangalila Symphony* by Olivier Messiaen (8.554478-79) was awarded the Cannes Classical Award at MIDEM Classic 2002. He has completed for Naxos a CD series of Szymanowski's symphonic and large-scale vocal-instrumental works, each rated among 'discs of the month' by CD magazines (*Gramophone*, *BBC Music Magazine*). He also received the Record Academy Award 2005 of Japanese music magazine *Record Geijutsu* for Penderecki's *Polish Requiem* (Naxos), and four Fryderyk Awards of the Polish Phonographic Academy. In 2012 he received a GRAMMY® Award for Penderecki's *Fonogrammi, Horn Concerto* and *Partita* (8.572482). In 2010 Antoni Wit won the annual award of the Karol Szymanowski Foundation for his promotion of the music of Szymanowski in his Naxos recordings.



© Ricardo Salcedo Blenzobas

Orquesta Sinfónica de Navarra



8.573558

Price Code: NXP



Playing Time:

62:31

#### Key Features:

- Dvořák's *Mass in D major* has relatively few recordings in the catalogue, appearing more often in its version with organ accompaniment. Of the orchestral version there is a 1999 Chandos label release with the Russian State Symphony Orchestra and Symphonic Capella, and in 1998 with Prague Symphony conducted by Václav Smetáček on Supraphon. The *Te Deum* is best known for its 1982 recording with Vaclav Neumann and the Czech Philharmonic Chorus and Orchestra.
- The strong line-up of soloists for this recording include renowned operatic soprano **Ewa Biegas** whose career was launched as winner of the 1996 Polish National Vocal Competition in Wrocław, and baritone **José Antonio López** who is much in demand as a leading character, having taken roles such as Figaro (*Barber of Seville*), Escamillo (*Carmen*), Mozart's Don Giovanni, Papageno, Figaro and Guglielmo and many others.
- The well-established **Orfeón Pamplonés** choir is one of the oldest and liveliest musical institutions of its kind in Europe, its more recent awards including the 2012 Press Association Award and The Gold Medal of Navarra.
- This release is a natural partner to Antoni Wit's 2014 Naxos recording of Dvořák's *Requiem* (8.572874-75), considered a performance that "sounds just right" by *Gramophone*, and with "playing of the highest order... refined and ethereal... beautifully sung." (*MusicWeb International*)

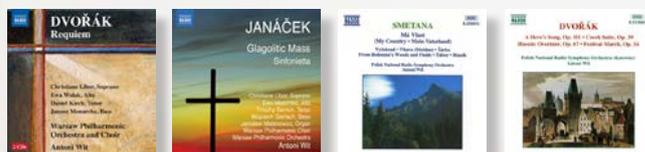


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#### Supplementary Promotional Materials

- Key Release Kit
- Artist Profile – Antoni Wit
- Facebook cover and post

#### Companion Titles – Antoni Wit, Conductor

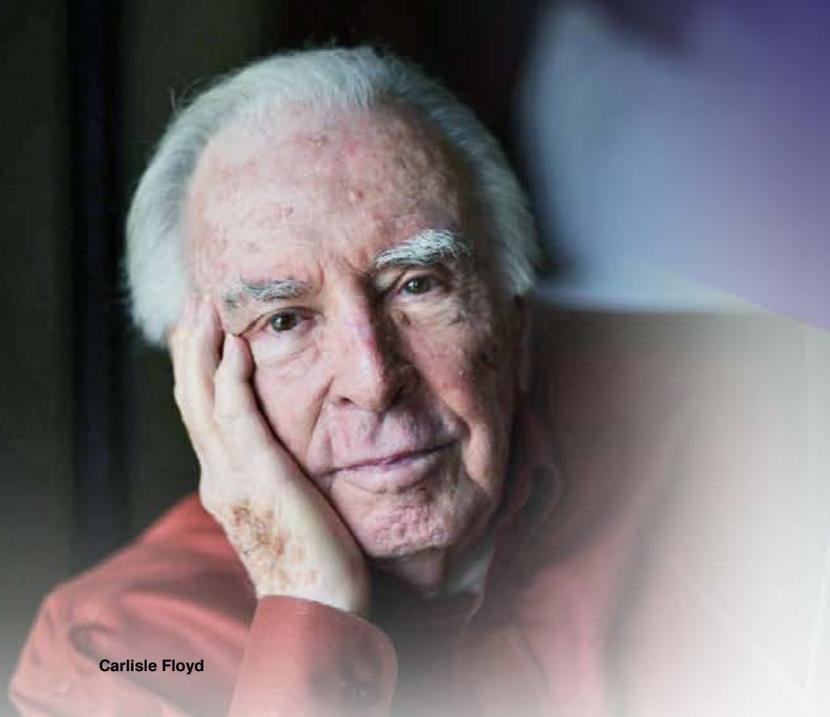


8.572874-75  
(NBD0046)

8.572639  
(NBD0026)

8.550931

8.553005



Carlisle Floyd

**Carlisle FLOYD (b. 1926)**  
**Susannah**

*Susan Hellman Spatafora • Stefanie Izzo • Aleksandra Ritums, Sopranos*  
*Melissa Misener • Robyn Rocklein, Mezzo-sopranos*  
*Scott Wichael • Anthony Wright Webb • Stanley Wilson, Tenors*  
*Fred Frabotta, Character Tenor • Todd Donovan, Baritone*  
*Benjamin Bloomfield, Bass-baritone • Brian Wehrle, Bass*  
*St. Petersburg Opera Orchestra and Chorus*  
*Michael Unger, Stage Director*  
*Mark Sforzini, Conductor*

Carlisle Floyd is one of America's foremost composers. Though he has also written in other forms, he is renowned for his operas, for which he also writes the libretti. The most famous and popular is his third opera, *Susannah*, premiered in 1955 and the second most performed of all American operas. Updated and set in Tennessee, it is loosely based on the Apocryphal tale of Susannah and the Elders. The work is rooted in vernacular folk melodies and hymns and contains soaring melodic beauty.

**Key Features:**

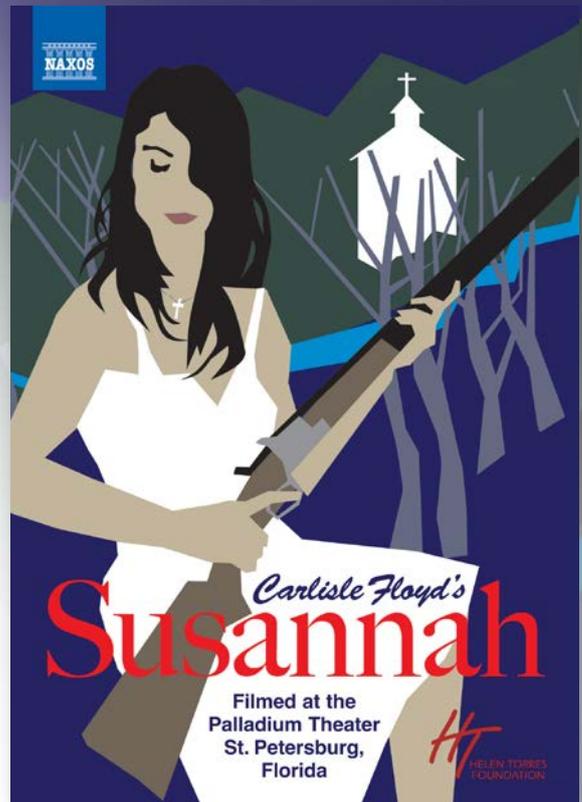
- Composer **Carlisle Floyd** reaches the age of 91 in June 2017. He was awarded the National Medal of Arts by the US Congress.
- His *Susannah* was written during the McCarthy era, and it is the second most performed American opera (after *Porgy and Bess*). The opera was awarded the New York Music Critics Circle Award for Best New Opera in 1956 and was chosen to represent American music and culture at the World's Fair at Brussels in 1958.
- This is the first professionally recorded DVD and was recorded live. There are two CD versions available – one is on VAI (made in 1962) and the other on Erato.

Conductor **Mark Sforzini** is the Founder, Artistic and Executive Director of **St. Petersburg Opera** and is regularly praised for his sensitive and supportive conducting. He was recently named by *Musical America* as one of thirty international industry professionals as a "Profile in Courage". Sforzini is also a composer whose orchestral and chamber compositions have been performed by numerous orchestras in the United States.



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**Michael Unger's** directing work has been seen on stages from Los Angeles, to Chicago, to New York, to Yekaterinburg, Russia – and many places in between. He is Associate Artistic Director of Off Broadway's York Theatre Company and Producing Artistic Director of NewArts; which brings high-level performing arts education and programming to the resilient community of Newtown, CT. His work in Newtown is the subject of the documentary film, *Midsummer in Newtown*. He has directed operas by Puccini, Bolcom, Ward, Menotti, Mascagni, Barber, Strauss and Floyd.



2.110381 [DVD]  
Playing Time: 105:35  
Picture format: NTSC 16:9  
Sound format: PCM Stereo  
Region Code: 0 (Worldwide)  
No. of disc: 1 (DVD9)



**Supplementary Promotional Materials**

- Key Release Kit
- Facebook cover and post



The company of *Susannah* at the Palladium Theater  
St. Petersburg, Florida

© ThePhotoNinja.com

**Companion Titles – Audiovisual Releases on Naxos**

<p>2.110387 (NBD0061)</p>	<p>2.110374-77 (NBD0052-54)</p>	<p>2.110613 (NBD0007)</p>	<p>2.110271 (NBD0006)</p>
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© Jean-Baptiste Millot



Romain Descharmes



8.573477

Price Code: NXP



Playing Time:  
57:16

**Camille SAINT-SAËNS (1835–1921)**

**Piano Concerto No. 3**

**Africa · Rhapsodie d’Auvergne**

**Wedding Cake Waltz**

*Romain Descharmes, Piano*

*Malmö Symphony Orchestra*

*Marc Soustrot*

The *Third Piano Concerto* has been considered the ‘Cinderella’ among Camille Saint-Saëns’ five works in this genre, but it owes its comparative neglect to an adventurous approach to harmony which caused unrest in the audience at its première. Daring enough in the first movement, the search for tonality in the second was such an extreme experience that it caused unrest in the audience at its première. Saint-Saëns also composed for piano and orchestra in more rhapsodic forms, exploring folk tunes and rhythms from Africa, and revealing his playful side in the charming *Wedding Cake Waltz*. Volume 1 can be heard on 8.573476.

Since his noteworthy début with the Orchestre de Paris in May 2012 and as winner of the Dublin Competition, **Romain Descharmes** has established himself as one of the foremost French pianists of his generation. Highly regarded by fellow musicians and in constant demand for concerts with orchestras and also for recitals and chamber music, he has also “sensitively accompanied” (*The Strad*) violinist Tianwa Yang for Naxos in Mendelssohn’s *Sonata in F minor* (8.572662).

**Key Features:**

- The *Third Piano Concerto* is one of the least recorded of Saint-Saëns’ works in this genre, usually included only as part of box set collections of all five concertos. Appearing as it does here with rarely heard works for piano and orchestra such as the folksong-based *Rhapsodie d’Auvergne* that pre-dates Canteloube’s famous *Chants D’Auvergne* by around 40 years, this is the sort of program that will have a wide stand-alone appeal as well as being part of our eminently collectable complete concerto edition.
- This is the second of a three volume edition of Saint-Saëns’ Piano Concertos and other works for piano and orchestra, the first of which was released in March 2017 (Naxos 8.573476). This new edition competes with classic recordings such as those with Charles Dutoit and Pascal Rogé (Decca) and André Previn and Jean-Phillipe Collard (EMI/Warner), but will be the first complete collection to appear for at least a decade, made all the more competitive with its numerous additional works.
- Conductor **Marc Soustrot** is a specialist in French orchestral music, his recent Naxos cycle of Saint-Saëns’ *Symphonies* received warmly by the critics. “With his conducting, Marc Soustrot creates a lot of electrifying energy, the excellent sound of the **Malmö Symphony Orchestra** having been perfectly captured by the sound crew.” (*Pizzicato* on vol. 2, 8.573139).



© Christoffer Lomfors

**Companion Titles – Marc Soustrot and the Malmö Symphony**



8.573476

8.573138

8.573139

8.573140

© Christian Dirksen



Malmö Symphony Orchestra



© Charles Gervais

Villiers Quartet

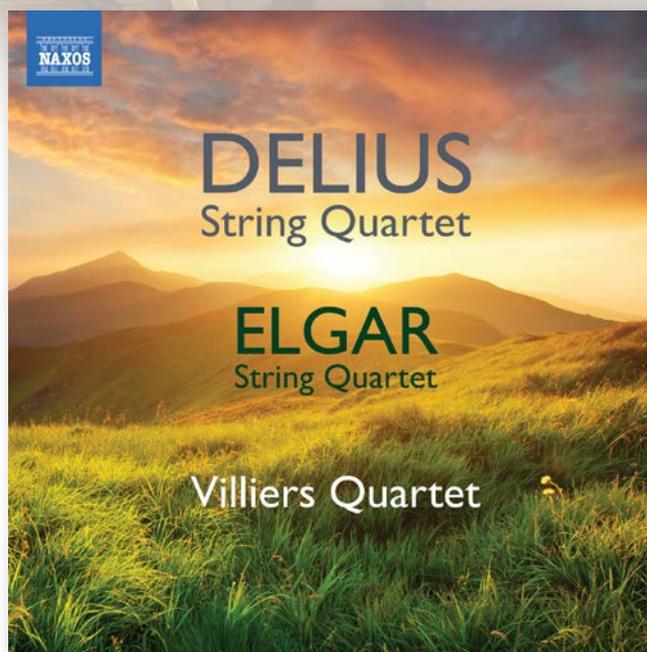
**Frederick DELIUS (1862–1934)**  
**Edward ELGAR (1857–1934)**  
**String Quartets**  
*Villiers Quartet*

The legacy of the First World War left its mark on the music of near contemporaries Edward Elgar and Frederick Delius. The powerful outer movements of Elgar's *String Quartet in E minor* frame a wistful and sombre *Andante piacevole*. Delius was dissatisfied with the first, three-movement version of his *Quartet* and revised the score. On this recording the final 1917 version is followed by the original versions of the opening movement and of the *Late Swallows* slow movement, offering a rare glimpse into Delius's compositional workshop.

**Key Features:**

- The Villiers Quartet are leading exponents of the British repertoire and have made acclaimed discs for Naxos – opportunity to promote Robert Still's later *Quartets* [8.571353] of which *Gramophone* wrote: "No praise can be too high for these sublimely articulate and concentrated readings by the Villiers Quartet, for whose leader, James Dickenson, the whole project was very much a labour of love. Admirable sound and balance, too."
- This is not a unique coupling as the Brodskys recorded it for ASV, but our disc includes the original version of the slow movement which will be of great interest to admirers of Delius. Apart from the Brodskys there are very few recordings available of the Delius – the Britten and Fitzwilliam Quartets recorded it but their performances are bound up in big boxed sets.

The **Villiers Quartet** was the winner of the 2015 Radcliffe Chamber Music Competition, and holds the position of Quartet-in-Residence at Oxford University's Faculty of Music. Named after Villiers Street in London's colourful musical epicentre, the Villiers Quartet encompasses the grand and iconic spirit of the extraordinary music tradition in London. One of the most charismatic and "adventurous" quartets of the European chamber music scene, the Villiers Quartet has developed an international reputation for its performances of English composers including Elgar, Britten and Delius. Their debut recording for Naxos, Robert Still's *The Four String Quartets* (8.571353), won high praise from *Gramophone* and received five stars in *Classical Music Magazine*. The VQ was the featured quartet on the soundtrack to the BBC television drama *Lady Chatterley's Lover*, and they have been featured extensively on BBC Radio 3 in live performance and on the programme *In Tune*.



8.573586  
 Price Code: NXP



Playing Time:  
 71:24

**Companion Titles – Villiers Quartet**



8.571353

8.571374

**Companion Titles – British Music for String Quartet**



8.555300

8.557396



8.573613  
Price Code: NXP  
Playing Time: 65:14



**Companion Titles –  
Damian Iorio, Conductor**



8.573180 8.573748

**Companion Titles –  
Ildebrando Pizzetti, Composer**



8.572013 8.570874

**Ildebrando PIZZETTI (1880–1968)  
Symphony in A**

**Harp Concerto\***

Margherita Bassani, Harp\*  
Orchestra Sinfonica Nazionale della Rai  
Damian Iorio

Composed in 1940, Pizzetti's *Symphony in A* was one of the works, which included Benjamin Britten's *Sinfonia da Requiem*, commissioned to celebrate the 2600th anniversary of the accession of the legendary first Emperor of Japan. This powerful and unsettling work, Pizzetti's only Symphony, is notable for its ominous mood, its compositional progress between February and June 1940 mirroring the unfolding European conflict and Italy's own declaration of war. Written twenty years later for Italy's leading harpist Clelia Gatti Aldrovandi, the sunny *Harp Concerto* is, by contrast, both lyrical and vivacious.

**Key Features:**

- Pizzetti's *Symphony in A* is a little-known work written for the founding of the Japanese Empire – Britten's *Sinfonia da Requiem* was also written for the celebration but was famously rejected. Naxos' recording of the work is on 8.557196 and could be a sales point.
- Conductor **Damian Iorio** has specialised in twentieth-century Italian music for Naxos – see his Casella discs on 8.573180, coupled with music by Ghedini, and 8.573748 – which should be promoted.
- Several other Pizzetti discs can be pushed – specifically the orchestral masterpiece, *Concerto dell'estate* (Summer Concerto) on 8.572013 – though there are a number of chamber music discs available too.



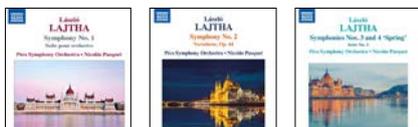
© Annaliese Photography



8.573646  
Price Code: NXC  
Playing Time: 68:11



**Companion Titles –  
Nicolás Pasquet's Lajtha Symphonies Series**



8.573643 8.573644 8.573645

**László LAJTHA (1892–1963)  
Symphonies Nos. 5 and 6**

Pécs Symphony Orchestra  
Nicolás Pasquet

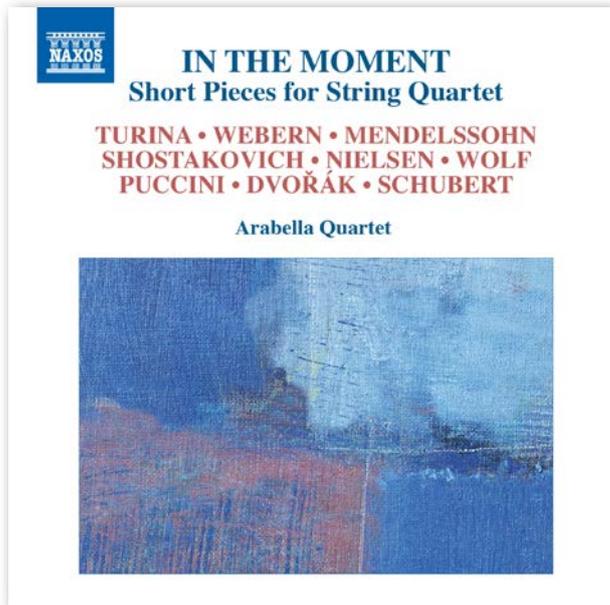
László Lajtha was one of the most significant Hungarian composers of the 20th century, yet his international recognition suffered under Communist suppression and his remarkable oeuvre remains neglected. Described by the composer as "very tragic, epic, like a ballad", the *Fifth Symphony* is a heartfelt and forceful statement reflecting persecution and the elusive nature of hope. With its moments of nocturnal enchantment and sparkling humour, the *Sixth Symphony* is enriched by uniquely colourful orchestration. These moods are also present in the wittily brilliant overture to Lajtha's ballet *Lysistrata*.

**Key Features:**

- This release is a title that originally appeared on the Marco Polo label in 1997 (8.223672), and is part of our complete cycle of László Lajtha's nine symphonies. Lajtha was banned from travelling abroad due to his support for the Hungarian uprising of 1956, and the shameful neglect of his music was an effect of Soviet suppression. Our Marco Polo releases made a start in raising the profile of this uniquely special voice, but the time has come to bring Lajtha's work to wider audiences via our mainstream catalogue.
- David Hurwitz of *ClassicsToday.com* stated that "The neglect of László Lajtha's music has robbed music lovers of the opportunity to enjoy not only Hungary's greatest symphonist, but also a truly original voice in 20th century music – a talent fully comparable to Bartók and Kodály... If you love the symphony as a form, and enjoy reveling in the endlessly colorful possibilities of the modern orchestra, you'll want every single issue in this remarkable edition." *Fanfare* wrote of the original release of this recording that it "belongs to every self-respecting collection of 20th century music."



© Guido Werner



8.579013  
Price Code:  
NXP



Playing Time:  
68:33

**Companion Titles – Works for String Quartet**

8.503290 / 8.573701 / 8.573108 / 8.550249

**IN THE MOMENT**

**Short Pieces for String Quartet**

TURINA • WEBERN • MENDELSSOHN  
SHOSTAKOVICH • NIELSEN • WOLF  
PUCCINI • DVOŘÁK • SCHUBERT

*Arabella Quartet*

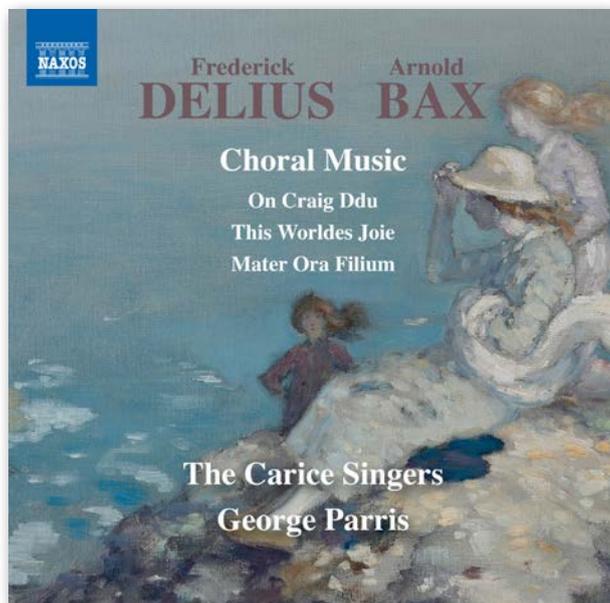
Time, place and mood are explored in this unusual programme that reveals the inventive curiosity of the Arabella Quartet, lauded by the *Boston Musical Intelligencer* for its “freedom, drive, and risk-taking”. The geographical span is wide, from Spain to Russia, and traditional staples by Schubert sit alongside meditative statements on human themes by Puccini, Turina, Webern and Nielsen. Shostakovich’s *Two Pieces for String Quartet* were rediscovered in the 1980s and broaden the expressive range of this fascinating disc.

**Key Features:**

- Unique selection of short pieces for string quartet, including familiar and less well-known works jostle together in a collection that will appeal to both seasoned collectors (who may be interested in the Shostakovich pieces) and someone newer to the quartet genre who will enjoy these small-sized compact works.
- After the **Arabella Quartet**’s debut concert, the *Boston Musical Intelligencer* wrote: “The group played like they had been together for years... with freedom, drive, and risk-taking that were quite astonishing in a debut performance.”



© Ebner Claus



8.573695  
Price Code:  
NXP



Playing Time:  
71:40

**Companion Titles – The Carice Singers**

8.573227 / 8.573584

**Companion Titles – British Choral Music**

8.553558-59 / 8.555792

**Frederick DELIUS (1862–1934)**

**Arnold BAX (1883–1953)**

**Choral Music**

*The Carice Singers*  
*George Parris*

Frederick Delius and Arnold Bax both made significant contributions to the part-song repertoire, each leaving a compelling testament to his highly individual creative personality. Delius’s earlier choral songs are nostalgic for the worlds of Mendelssohn, Schumann and Grieg, while the brooding contours of *On Craig Ddu* results in one of his most remarkable creations. The allure of landscapes and elemental forces was powerful for both composers; the subtle tensions and gorgeously layered harmonies of Bax’s settings also evoking historical remoteness and other-worldly enchantment.

**Key Features:**

- Delius and Bax are remembered more today for their orchestral and chamber music scores, but this recording reminds us of their deeply rewarding output in a vibrant choral tradition that is now once again receiving significant critical and artistic attention.
- Despite the niche popularity of titles such as Delius’s *To be sung of a summer night on the water*, these pieces are in fact surprisingly rare on record. The Elysian Singers have recorded Delius’s complete part-songs for the Somm label, and some of Bax’s choral works can be found on EMI and Chandos label recordings though these are now only available as downloads. Having works such as Bax’s highly attractive *Five Greek Folksongs* generally available once again will be widely welcomed, especially in such fine performances as these.
- Now in its fifth year of existence, **The Carice Singers** is an ensemble made up from some of the UK’s finest young professional vocalists, noted for their “freshness of tone” and “careful musicality” by *Gramophone*. Their previous recording for Naxos of Warlock’s choral music (8.573227) is “sensitively performed by this technically confident group of singers...a very valuable collection” (*BBC Music Magazine*), and of their subsequent recording of choral music by Ireland and Moeran (8.573584) *Gramophone* considers that “few can match The Carice Singers for musicality and beauty of tone.”



© Tom Heering



8.573673  
Price Code:  
NXP



Playing Time:  
64:24

## Balys DVARIONAS (1904–1972) Complete Works for Violin and Piano

Justina Auškelytė, Violin  
Cesare Pezzi, Piano

One of the most gifted and prominent of all twentieth-century Lithuanian musicians, Balys Dvarionas was a musical polymath who excelled as a composer, pianist, conductor and teacher. He viewed his native country's folklore as a fundamental part of his artistic heritage and his aesthetic ideas were formed under the influence of nineteenth-century Romanticism. His violin works occupy a special place in his oeuvre. The *Sonata-Ballade* is his violin masterpiece, full of idiosyncrasies and luminous warmth, while the miniatures encompass subtle charm and effortless virtuosity.

### Key Features:

- Young Lithuanian violinist **Justina Auškelytė** was laureate of the National Balys Dvarionas Violin Competition and in 2008 at the 8th International Balys Dvarionas Competition she became the Grand Prix Laureate. In 2009 she won the 2nd prize at the 3rd International Jascha Heifetz Competition. In May 2016 Justina made her debut at Musikverein Concert Hall in Vienna, performing H. K. Gruber's 2nd Violin concerto "Nebelsteinmusik" with the composer conducting.
- Naxos has released several albums of Lithuanian composers like Mikalojus Čiurlionis, Joseph Achron, and Osvaldas Balakauskas, among others.



Justina Auškelytė Cesare Pezzi © Francesca Riccardi

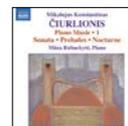
### Companion Titles – Lithuanian Composers



8.573240



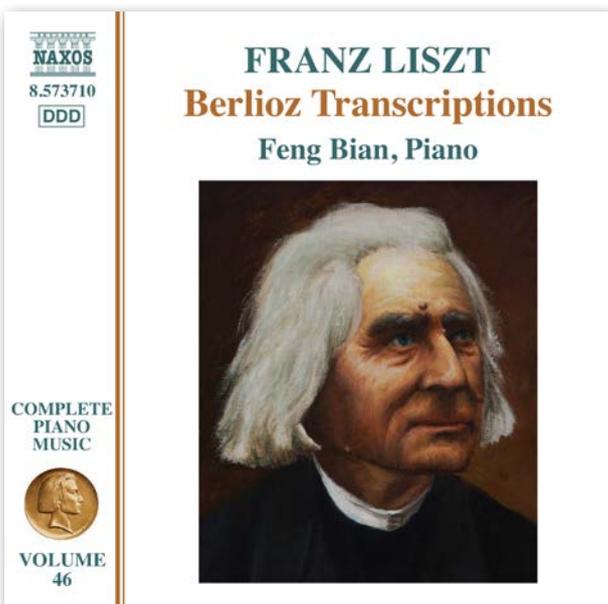
8.570408



8.572659



8.572295



8.573710  
Price Code:  
NXP



Playing Time:  
64:42

## Franz LISZT (1811–1886) Complete Piano Music, Vol. 46 Berlioz Transcriptions

Feng Bian, Piano

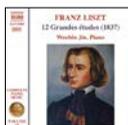
Liszt first met Hector Berlioz in Paris before the premiere of the *Symphonie fantastique* in 1830 and at first their mutual esteem was unbounded. Liszt proceeded to transcribe the music of his friend and two movements from his innovative transcription of the whole of the *Symphonie* are heard in this recording. Each transcription reveals a different facet of Liszt's art, from the faithful reflection of the concert overture *King Lear* through the dramatic panache of the popular overture to *Les Francs-Juges* to the beautiful *Pilgrims' March* from *Harold en Italie*.

### Key Features:

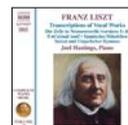
- Chinese-born pianist **Feng Bian** was awarded a bronze medal in the 2014 World Piano Competition. He also won the First Prizes of the California Division of MTNA and Parness Young Artists Concerto Competitions
- The focus here is on Liszt's arrangements of Berlioz so in addition to the previous volumes in the series, the orchestral versions of the works performed here on piano can also be promoted – for example the *Symphonie fantastique* on 8.572886 performed by the Orchestre National de Lyon and Leonard Slatkin.



### Companion Titles – Liszt Complete Piano Music Series



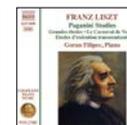
8.573709



8.573557



8.573485



8.573458



WORLD PREMIÈRE RECORDINGS

**Sergey RACHMANINOV (1873–1943)**  
**Rare Piano Transcriptions**

*Julia Severus, Piano*

Sergey Rachmaninov's songs rival his piano works in terms of popularity, and are the culmination of a uniquely Russian lyrical tradition. Piano transcription became a fashionable art form in its own right after Liszt's work in the genre, and Rachmaninov's elaborate piano parts make his romances ideal for solo performance in works that express effortless sensuality as well as darkness and loss. Unearthed in 2002, Rachmaninov's own transcription of his remarkable *Suite in D minor* explores both tragic depths and light-hearted bravura.

**Key Features:**

- **Julia Severus** gained expertise in Russian music while studying at the Moscow Conservatory, and with the Aurora Duo, has already released recordings of piano transcriptions of music by Tchaikovsky, Balakirev and Glazunov (8.557717 and 8.570418). She made her solo recording début for Naxos with the Bizet's complete piano music (8.570831-32); *MusicWeb International* admiring the way that she "treats all of Bizet's piano music with the respect befitting a great composer, and is equal to the virtuosic demands he often makes... [Bizet's] musicality and that of Severus illuminate these two discs." Of her recording of César Franck's Early Piano Music (8.572901), *International Piano* wrote: "Julia Severus plays with the poise of an old master", and *American Record Guide* that this is "a recording that should be in every pianophile's collection."
- Rachmaninov's *Romances* have retained their popularity worldwide, owed in part to the composer's life and work in the US and the greater exposure this environment provided, but in the longer term due to the sheer range and power of their seductive melodic distinctiveness. Transcriptions of these songs for cello and piano and other instruments have created their own strong performing tradition, but the versions for solo piano are much less frequently heard or recorded, and indeed, 17 of these transcriptions are world première recordings. The recently discovered solo piano transcription of the *Suite in D minor* is also a genuine rarity.



© G. Reinart

8.573468

Price Code:  
NXP



Playing Time:  
73:26

**Companion Titles – Julia Severus, Piano**



8.570831-32



8.572901

**Companion Titles – Sergey Rachmaninov, Composer**



8.573469



8.501005



**NAXOS HISTORICAL**

**Sergey RACHMANINOV (1873–1943)**  
**Pianists – Solo Piano Recordings, Vol. 4**

**The Thomas A. Edison Recordings, April 1919**

*Sergey Rachmaninov, Piano*

Rachmaninov was obliged to start a new life after abandoning all his possessions when leaving Russia for good in 1917. He sought his fortune in the New World, supporting his family as a pianist and giving numerous concerts. This activity generated interest from fledgling record companies, and before long Rachmaninov was working for Thomas Edison in his New York studio. These new transfers of 'approved' and 'held' takes made using the old acoustic process known as 'hill-and dale' reveal more about the instrument Rachmaninov played (probably a Lauter piano) than ever before, as well as opening out his robustly virtuoso approach to Chopin, the beautiful tone he gives to Mozart, and his breathtaking technique in Liszt's *Hungarian Rhapsody No. 2*, the longest solo work he ever recorded.

**Key Features:**

- Having covered Rachmaninov's Victor recordings in the first three volumes of these solo piano recordings, volume 4 brings us to his earliest work for Thomas Edison way back in 1919-20. These acoustic tracks are notorious for their surface noise, a side-effect of Edison's own inventive but ultimately limited recording technique. Ward Marston's expert re-mastering reveals more of Rachmaninov's musicianship than any other set of transfers to date, and as a result will be of great value to collectors.
- Previous releases in this historical edition have received universal praise. Volume 1 (8.112020) was considered "a superb first volume in what promises to be an invaluable series" by *Gramophone*. Volume 2 (8.112058) is "an amazing tribute to a towering talent as well as a wonderful job performed by Ward Marston as audio restoration engineer" according to *MusicWeb International*, and *Classical Recordings Quarterly* also admired Volume 3 (8.111397): "Not only does this disc present one of the summits of pianism on record; but the transfers are excellent," the same volume summed up by *Gramophone* as "playing beyond price."

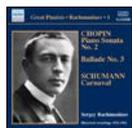
8.111407

Price Code:  
NXC



Playing Time:  
71:46

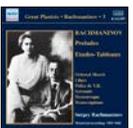
**Companion Titles – Rachmaninov Historical Recordings**



8.112020



8.112058



8.111397



8.110602

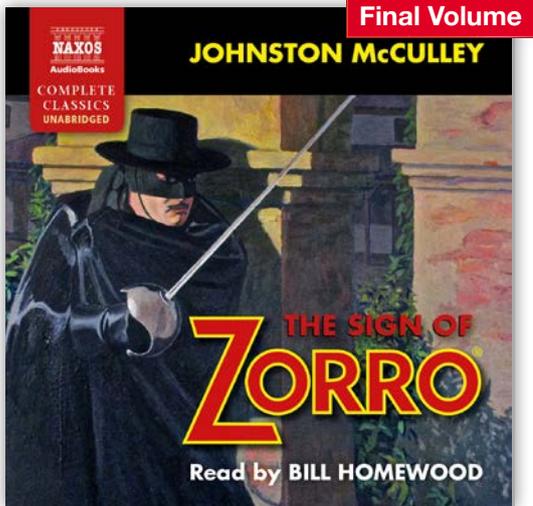


8.110601

All Historical titles are not available in the United States



NEW RELEASES FROM NAXOS AUDIOBOOKS



Final Volume

**The Sign of Zorro**

By Johnston McCulley  
Unabridged  
Read by Bill Homewood



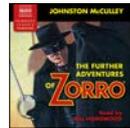
NA0255 • 5 CDs  
Playing Time: 6 Hours

Once again, the intrepid Zorro fights for justice! In the fourth of Naxos AudioBooks's Zorro titles, our hero's assistance is sought when the devious Pedro Morelos threatens the fortune of a wealthy heir, Vicente Canchola. Morelos hatches a plot to kidnap the Governor of California and extort profitable trade concessions from him. Zorro over hears this, but will he be able to foil the evil scheme, and stop the Canchola estate from falling into the wrong hands?

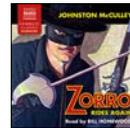
Companion Titles –  
Johnston McCulley's Zorro Series



NA0252



NA0253

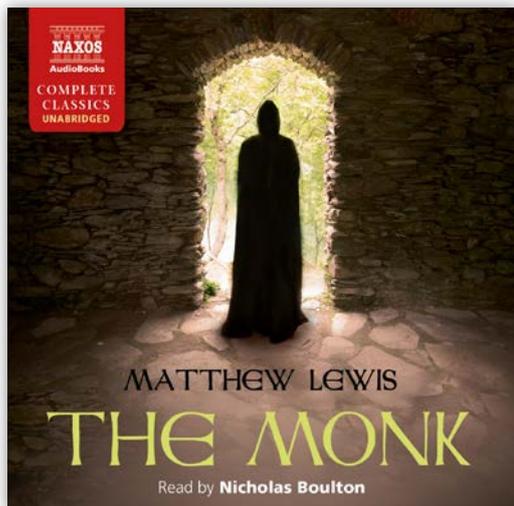


NA0254

Companion Title –  
Bill Homewood, Reader



NA0241



**The Monk**

By Matthew Lewis  
Unabridged  
Read by Nicholas Boulton



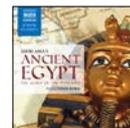
NA0265 • 13 CDs  
Playing Time: 16 Hours

A masterpiece of gothic fiction, *The Monk* is a cautionary tale of madness, horror, lust and despair. Father Ambrosi, the most pious and venerated monk in all of Madrid, is held as a paragon of virtue. But after thirty years of study and prayer, evil thoughts begin to permeate his mind... As two plots cleverly converge, torture, murder, incest, rape, poison and magic prevail, sustained by an elegance in the writing of the nineteen – year – old Matthew Lewis. The book was banned upon its initial publication in 1796 but later caught the attention of Lord Byron and Samuel Taylor Coleridge, with Coleridge naming it 'the offspring of no common genius'.

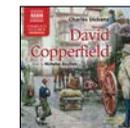
Companion Titles – Nicholas Boulton, Reader



NA0213



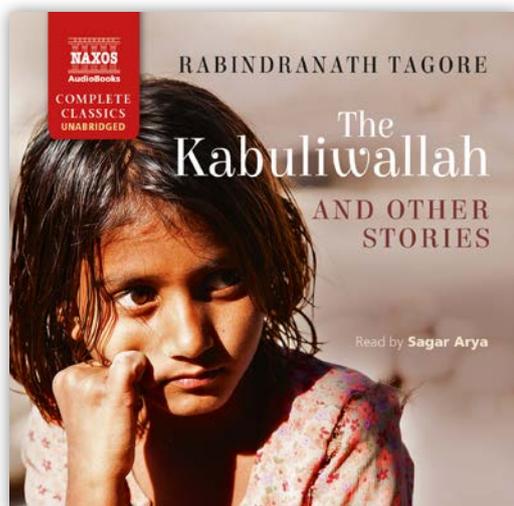
NA0052



NA0078



NA0108



**The Kabuliwallah and Other Stories**

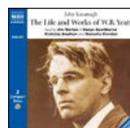
By Rabindranath Tagore  
Unabridged  
Read by Sagar Arya



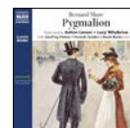
NA0266 • 6 CDs  
Playing Time: 7.5 Hours

Rabindranath Tagore, India's foremost writer and the first non-European to win the Nobel Prize for literature, is perhaps best known for his tender and passionate tales about human yearning and longing. Here then is a collection of eighteen short stories that highlight Tagore's profound vision. The collection begins with *The Kabuliwallah*, a heartwarming story about the relationship between a father and daughter. In *The Postmaster*, a young man from Calcutta finds himself adjusting to life in a small and remote village, and *The Hungry Stones* recounts an unlikely encounter at a railway station.

Companion Titles – Nobel Laureates



NA226412



NA326812



NA240212



NA205212