NAXOS

GREAT COMPOSERS

GREAT COMPOSERS

IN WORDS AND MUSIC

CHOPIN

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FRYDERYK CHOPIN

(1810–1849)

Polish by birth, Fryderyk Chopin made his name in post-Revolutionary Paris and is often depicted as the archetypal Romantic artist – blessed with extraordinary talent but consumed by the flame of genius, tormented by intense and tempestuous relationships and doomed to an early death. But how much of this story is based on fact? This account of Chopin's life and times separates myth and reality. Illustrated with numerous musical examples, the narrative takes us from his youthful beginnings as 'a second Mozart' to the darkness and light of his life and the brilliance of his work.

Written by Davinia Caddy
The script is available for download at www.naxos.com/notes/578367.htm
Text recorded: 5 February 2022 at Temple Music Studio, Sutton, London, UK
Producer: Neil Rosser • Editing and post production: Sarah Butcher
Cover painting by Eugène Delacroix (1798–1863)

1	Introduction	0:11
2	**Prelude No. 11 in B major, Op. 28** Idil Biret, Piano (Naxos 8.554536, Ⓟ 1992)	0:38
3	*You may well know him not as Fryderyk Franciszek Chopin…*	1:55
4	**Fantasia on Polish Airs, Op. 13 – II. Air 'Już Miesiąc Zaszedł': Andantino** Eldar Nebolsin, Piano • Warsaw Philharmonic Orchestra • Antoni Wit (Naxos 8.572335, Ⓟ 2010)	1:01
5	*An extract from the second movement of Chopin's 1828 piece…*	6:09
6	**Polonaise in G minor** Idil Biret, Piano (Naxos 8.554535, Ⓟ 1992)	1:04
7	*Such was the young Chopin's musical renown…*	1:46
8	**Rondo in C minor, Op. 1** Idil Biret, Piano (Naxos 8.554537, Ⓟ 1992)	2:43
9	*Chopin's early years were spent not only in Warsaw…*	3:36
10	**Mazurka No. 8 in A flat major, Op. 7, No. 4** Idil Biret, Piano (Naxos 8.554529, Ⓟ 1990)	1:08
11	*In 1826, after finishing his studies…*	3:32
12	**Piano Concerto No. 2 in F minor, Op. 21 – II. Larghetto** Eldar Nebolsin, Piano • Warsaw Philharmonic Orchestra • Antoni Wit (Naxos 8.572336, Ⓟ 2010)	2:19
13	*Chopin was the talk of the town…*	4:13
14	**Variations on 'Là ci darem la mano' from Mozart's *Don Giovanni*, Op. 2 –** **Variation 1: Brillante** **Variation 2: Veloce, ma accuratamente** Eldar Nebolsin, Piano • Warsaw Philharmonic Orchestra • Antoni Wit (Naxos 8.572336, Ⓟ 2010)	2:03

15 *'The whole of Paris went crazy,' wrote Chopin's friend…* 3:28

16 **Nocturne in E flat major, Op. 9, No. 2** 2:32
Idil Biret, Piano
(Naxos 8.550356, Ⓟ 1991)

17 *'I am in great request. I have entered the cream of society'…* 2:59

18 **Piano Sonata No. 2 in B flat minor, Op. 35 – III. Marche funèbre: Lento** 2:27
Idil Biret, Piano
(Naxos 8.554533, Ⓟ 1991)

19 *Although it was not written until a couple of years later…* 3:05

20 **17 Songs, Op. 74 – No. 14. 'Pierścień' ('The Ring')** 1:31
Olga Pasichnyk, Soprano • Natalya Pasichnyk, Piano
(Naxos 8.572499, Ⓟ 2010)

21 *In the summer of 1838…* 3:21

22 **Prelude No. 15 in D flat major, Op. 28 'Raindrop'** 1:12
Idil Biret, Piano
(Naxos 8.554536, Ⓟ 1992)

23 *If the 'Raindrop' prelude is ultimately serene in style…* 0:55

24 **Prelude No. 24 in D minor, Op. 28** 1:32
Idil Biret, Piano
(Naxos 8.554536, Ⓟ 1992)

25 *In late January 1839, Chopin's health…* 3:51

26 **Fantaisie in F minor, Op. 49** (bars 37–137) 3:25
Idil Biret, Piano
(Naxos 8.550508, Ⓟ 1992)

27 *As far as contrasting moods go…* 0:28

28 **Fantaisie in F minor, Op. 49** (bars 199–235) 1:58
Idil Biret, Piano
(Naxos 8.550508, Ⓟ 1992)

29 *The principle of contrast not only defined the F minor Fantaisie…* 2:02

30 **Ballade No. 4 in F minor, Op. 52** 2:08
Kadar Qian, Piano
(Naxos 9.70191, Ⓟ 2013)

31 *Chopin spent the next summer…* 1:37

32 **Waltz No. 7 in C sharp minor, Op. 64, No. 2** 1:20
Idil Biret, Piano
(Naxos 8.550365, Ⓟ 1992)

33 *With its melodious yet sorrowful opening theme…* 2:16

34 **Cello Sonata in G minor, Op. 65 – II. Scherzo: Allegro con brio** 1:23
Maria Kliegel, Cello • Bernd Glemser, Piano
(Naxos 8.553159, Ⓟ 1996)

35 *Chopin's life at this time, upended by the split from Sand…* 5:11

36 **Prelude No. 9 in E major, Op. 28** 1:26
Idil Biret, Piano
(Naxos 8.554536, Ⓟ 1992)

Lucy Scott

Lucy Scott trained at the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama. Her stage credits include *Emma* (Tricycle Theatre), *Search and Destroy* (New End Theatre) and *Mansfield Park* (Chichester Festival). Her television credits include *Pride and Prejudice* (BBC), *Rosemary and Thyme* (ITV) and *Spooks* (BBC). She also appeared in the film *Tom Brown's Schooldays* with Stephen Fry. She has read many titles for Naxos AudioBooks, including Balzac's *Cousin Bette*, Eliot's *Romola*, Fontane's *Effi Briest* and Richardson's *Clarissa*.

Davinia Caddy

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

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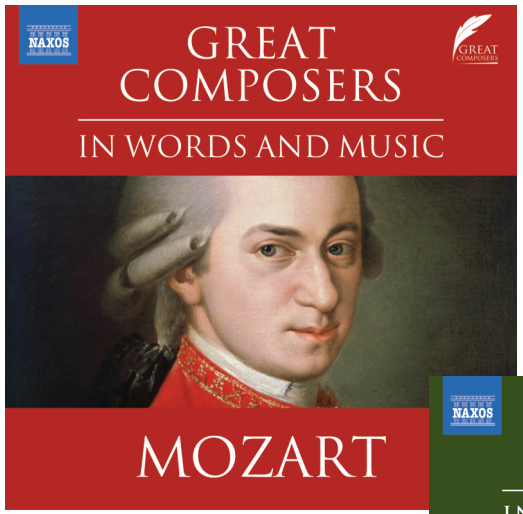

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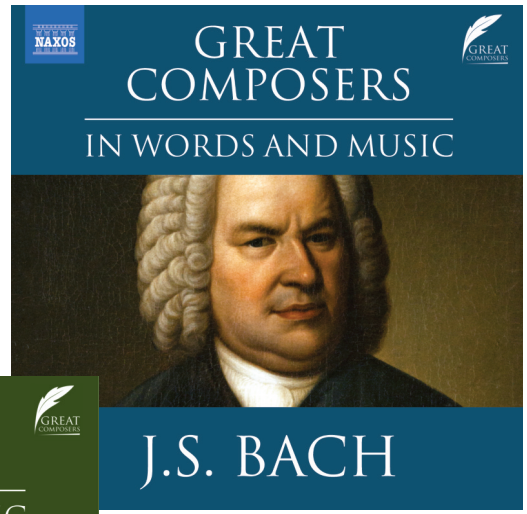

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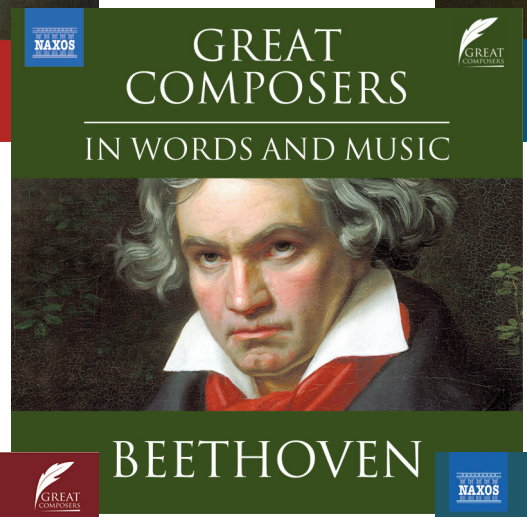

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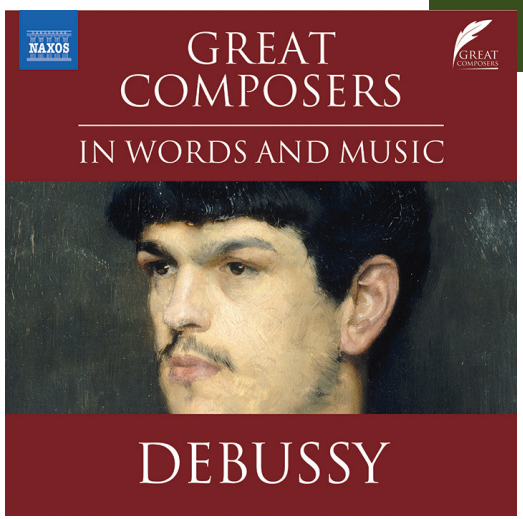

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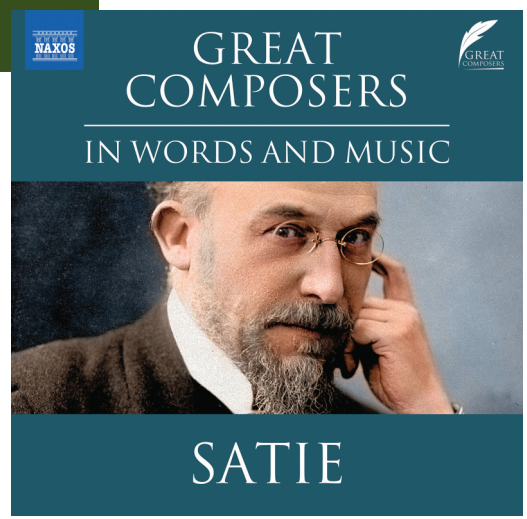

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Fryderyk Chopin

Written by Davinia Caddy

narrated by Lucy Scott

Polish by birth, Fryderyk Chopin made his name in post-Revolutionary Paris and is often depicted as the archetypal Romantic artist – blessed with extraordinary talent but consumed by the flame of genius, tormented by intense and tempestuous relationships and doomed to an early death. But how much of this story is based on fact? This account of Chopin's life and times separates myth and reality. Illustrated with numerous musical examples, the narrative takes us from his youthful beginnings as 'a second Mozart' to the darkness and light of his life and the brilliance of his work.

A detailed track list can be found inside the booklet.

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