

NAXOS

BEETHOVEN: Fidelio (Highlights)

8.557892

'Naxos strikes gold again with this superbly cast *Fidelio*' (8.660070-71, *The Gramophone*)

Beethoven wrote his only opera *Fidelio* in the full maturity of his creative powers. Based on a lofty and strongly dramatic theme of freedom, justice, and heroism, the composer's idealized image of womanhood is to be seen in the married love of the heroine Leonore. This collection of highlights includes the *Prisoner's Chorus*, an ode to freedom sung by a chorus of political prisoners, Florestan's hallucinating vision of Leonore come as an angel to rescue him (*Gott! Welch' Dunkel hier!*), and the highly melodramatic Finale to Act II in which the rescue finally takes place.

Ludwig van  
**BEETHOVEN**

(1770–1827)

**Fidelio, Op. 72 (Highlights)**

1	Overture	6:25	8	Prisoner's Chorus: O welche Lust	7:04
2	O, wär' ich schon mit dir vereint	3:55	9	Gott! Welch' Dunkel hier!	10:50
3	Mir ist so wunderbar	4:49	10	Er sterbe!	5:12
4	Hat man nicht auch Gold beineben	2:55	11	O, namenlose Freude!	2:45
5	March	2:22	12	Heil! Heil sei dem Tag	2:07
6	Ha! Welch ein Augenblick	3:15	13	Des besten Königs Wink und Wille	7:54
7	Abscheulicher! Wo eilst du hin?	7:29	14	Wer ein holdes Weib errungen	4:03

Nielsen • Winbergh • Moll • Titus • Lienbacher • Pecoraro  
Hungarian Radio Chorus • Nicolaus Esterházy Sinfonia  
Michael Halász

Recorded at Phoenix Studios, Budapest, Hungary, from 7th to 10th and 14th to 18th November, 1998  
Producer: Ibolya Tóth • Engineer: János Bohus • Editors: Mária Falvay and Veronika Vincze  
Technical Consultant: Eleanor Thomason (K&A Productions Ltd.) • Booklet Notes: Keith Anderson  
Please see the the booklet for a detailed artist and track list  
**The recording of the complete opera with these artists is available on Naxos 8.660070-71**  
Cover Picture: *Outside the Fort - Set design for Beethoven's Fidelio, Berlin State Opera, 1935*  
by Ludwig Sievert (1887-1966) (AKG Images)

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Playing Time  
71:06

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Booklet notes in English • Kommentar auf Deutsch  
A libretto can be accessed at:  
[www.naxos.com/libretto/fidelio.htm](http://www.naxos.com/libretto/fidelio.htm)  
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