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An Introduction to... VERDI Falstaff

NAXOS

## O P E R A E X P L A I N E D

This series introduces, in words and music, the plot and background of major operas. Using the principal themes and arias, taken from the Naxos recording of the complete work, Thomson Smillie is informative yet entertaining, enabling the listener to get more from this remarkable art form.

## An Introduction to...

# VERDI

# Falstaff

written by **Thomson Smillie**  
narrated by **David Timson**

Verdi's *Falstaff* repays careful study with real pleasure. It is opera's happiest irony that the great Italian master should cap a career – distinguished for its blood-and-thunder tragic masterpieces – with the greatest comic opera in the Italian repertory. The genius of Shakespeare is harnessed (in a miracle of compression) by master-librettist Boito to give the eighty-year-old Verdi a superb libretto, on which he lavished more wonderful tunes than most composers manage in a lifetime. *Falstaff* is the last great Italian comic opera and a worthy end to the tradition.

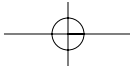
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