

NAXOS

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DDD

Playing Time  
53:44

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Giovanni Bottesini was not only among the most famous double bass virtuosos of his time, but he was also a distinguished conductor and composer. Known to some as the Paganini of the double bass, he significantly extended the technical possibilities of the instrument. The *Gran Concerto in F sharp minor* is arguably Bottesini's most accomplished and involved composition for the double bass in which the instrument's resources are fully exploited with virtuoso passages and adventurous modulations. The popular *Gran Duo Concertante*, originally scored for two double basses, was reworked by Paganini's only disciple, Camillo Sivori, who rewrote and greatly expanded one of the double bass parts for the violin.

Giovanni  
**BOTTESINI**  
(1821–1889)

- |   |   |                             |
|---|---|-----------------------------|
| 1 | <b>Gran Duo Concertante</b><br>(for Violin, Double Bass and Orchestra)                  | <b>15:28</b>                |
| 2 | <b>Andante sostenuto</b> (for Strings) *  | <b>6:50</b>                 |
| 3 | <b>Duetto for Clarinet and Double Bass</b> *<br><b>Gran Concerto in F sharp minor</b> * | <b>8:22</b><br><b>23:03</b> |
| 4 | <b>Allegro moderato</b>   | <b>11:47</b>                |
| 5 | <b>Andante</b>  | <b>6:39</b>                 |
| 6 | <b>Finale: Allegro con fuoco</b>  | <b>4:37</b>                 |

\* First recording of the original version

**Thomas Martin, Double Bass**  
**José-Luis Garcia, Violin • Emma Johnson, Clarinet**  
**English Chamber Orchestra**  
**Andrew Litton**



Recorded in Henry Wood Hall, London, UK, in May 1986

Producer: Chris Hazell • Engineer: Tony Faulkner • Booklet Notes: Yngve B. Olsson

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photographed by Richard Valencia, London