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A rival of Bellini and Donizetti, Giovanni Pacini outlived both, achieving his greatest success in 1840 with *Saffo*, based on the life and suicide of the Greek poetess of Lesbos. Described by Rossini as the composer with the most genius in Italy, Pacini here breaks away from the pattern set by Rossini in a work suggesting the influence of Bellini's *Norma* in its dramatic intensity.

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STEREO

Giovanni
PACINI
(1976 • 1867)
SAFFO

Lyric Tragedy in Three Acts
Libretto: Salvatore Cammarano

Saffo Francesca Pedaci
Faone Carlo Ventre
Alcandro Roberto de Candia
Climene Mariana Petcheva
Dirce Aled Hall
Lisimaco Davide Baronchelli

Wexford Festival Opera Chorus
(Chorus Master: Lubomir Matl)
National Symphony Orchestra of Ireland
Maurizio Benini, Conductor

Compact Disc 1 (78:01)
Act I • Act II

Compact Disc 1 (59:48)
Act III

Liberetto Enclosed
Playing Time: 137'49"

Recorded in Wexford, in October and November, 1995
Producer: Chris Craker
Engineers: Marcus McDonald / Dave Harries
Music Notes: Philip Gossett and Luigi Ferrari

The original opera production was sponsored by *Independent Newspapers*

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