

The Belgian born composer, César Franck, was a pioneer of cyclic form, and his harmonic style was influenced both by Wagner and his experience as a church organist. The *Symphonic Variations*, which demonstrate his mastery of variation form, is probably his best known and best loved work. Their high spirits and brilliant writing for both piano and orchestra are exceptional. The symphonic poem *Les Djinns*, is written in Franck's rich orchestral style, and features a substantial part for the piano. It was inspired by Victor Hugo's poem of the same name. His *Concerto for Piano and Orchestra, Op. 11* is expertly written, with much virtuoso writing for the solo piano.

César
FRANCK
(1822–1890)

Symphonic Variations

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| 1 | Symphonic Variations | 14:53 |
| 2 | Les Djinns | 12:06 |
| | Piano Concerto No. 2 in B minor, Op. 11 | 31:59 |
| 3 | Allegro maestoso | 15:36 |
| 4 | Adagio | 6:46 |
| 5 | Rondo: Allegro | 9:38 |

François-Joël Thiollier, Piano **1–2**

Martijn van den Hoek, Piano **3–5**

Arnhem Philharmonic Orchestra • Roberto Benzi

Recorded: June 1995 **1–2**, 26–27 July 1997 **3–5** at the Musis Sacrum, Arnhem, Netherlands

Producers and engineers: Gary Cole **1–2** and Benno Tarrenga **3–5**

Booklet notes: Keith Anderson

Cover image: *Monument to César Franck* by Alfred Charles Lenoir (1850–1920)

Bridgeman Art Library / Place St Clothilde, Paris



DDD

8.553472

Playing Time
58:58



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