

First released on Marco Polo 8.223352 in 1992

Alkan compiled his *Esquisses*, or Sketches, in 1861. The individual pieces that make up the set were probably written during the previous fifteen years. They were published in four volumes, with the pieces arranged in key sequence. The range of musical reference within them is very great indeed. For instance, *Le staccatissimo* (track 2) suggests links between the age of the French clavecinistes of the late seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries on the one hand, and Chopin and Schumann on the other. *Confidence* (track 9) evokes the form and texture of a Mendelssohn *Song without Words*, while *Les soupirs* (track 11) looks forward to Debussy. *Esquisses* ends with a postscript, *Laus Deo*, which evokes the solemn tolling of bells. This massive work is a fitting tribute to one of the nineteenth century's master pianists.

Charles-Valentin
ALKAN
 (1813-1888)

1-49 Esquisses, Op. 63
 (Sketches)

74:29

Laurent Martin, Piano

A complete track list can be found on page 12 of the booklet
 Recorded at Tonstudio van Geest, Heidelberg, in December 1990
 Producer: Günter Appenheimer • Booklet Notes: Keith Anderson
 Cover Picture: *The Hill at Jallais, Pontoise, 1875* by Camille Pissarro (1831-1903)
 (Private Collection / The Bridgeman Art Library)



DDD

8.555496

Playing Time
 74:29



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ALKAN: Esquisses, Op. 63

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