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Playing Time
60:47
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 Booklet notes in English

A student of Hummel, Sigismond Thalberg was one of the great virtuoso pianist-composers of the 19th century, who enjoyed a celebrated rivalry with Liszt that was largely fomented by the press. Thalberg's influence on fellow pianists was enormous and his operatic paraphrases and fantasies, designed for his own use in concert performances, proved exceptionally popular. Even Liszt himself performed several of them. Berlioz praised Thalberg as the creator of 'a new art' and the thrilling examples here, taking the best-known themes from great Italian operas, reveal bravura embellishments and ingenious elaborations.

Sigismond
THALBERG
 (1812–1871)

**Fantasies on Operas by Giuseppe Verdi,
 Gioachino Rossini and Vincenzo Bellini**

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| 1 | Grande fantaisie de concert sur l'opéra <i>La traviata</i> ,
Op. 78 (1862) | 9:45 |
| 2 | Grande fantaisie de concert sur l'opéra <i>Il trovatore</i> ,
Op. 77 (1862) | 9:31 |
| 3 | Souvenir de <i>Un ballo in maschera</i> , Op. 81 (1864) | 9:06 |
| 4 | Souvenir de <i>Rigoletto</i> , Op. 82 (1864) | 11:26 |
| 5 | Impromptu sur des thèmes favoris de l'opéra
<i>Le Siège de Corinthe</i> (1828) | 12:55 |
| 6 | L'Art du chant appliqué au piano, Op. 70 – No. 19.
Casta diva, cavatine de <i>Norma</i> de Bellini (1853) | 7:30 |

Francesco Nicolosi, Piano

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