

Giovanni Bottesini enjoyed a globe-trotting career as “the Paganini of the double bass”. He was also a successful conductor and a composer, although only the music he wrote for his own instrument has outlived him. Many of the works on this recording emphasize the essential *bel canto* quality of Bottesini’s inspiration, most explicitly in the dazzling Bellini *Fantasia*, but also in the duets with clarinet and soprano which demand virtuosity of both feeling and technique. The *Concerto No. 2* is a fully mature work, from the somewhat laconic first movement, through the simply singing second, to the third, driven by a rhythmic figure typical of the polonaise and the Cuban bolero.

Giovanni  
**BOTTESEINI**  
(1821-1889)

**Music for Double Bass and Piano • 2**

**Gran Duetto No. 3** <sup>1</sup>

1 Andantino  
2 Presto

**Concerto No. 2** <sup>2</sup>

3 Moderato  
4 Andante  
5 Finale: Allegro  
6 Adagio melancolico ed  
appassionato <sup>3</sup>

11:58	7 Duetto for Clarinet and Double Bass <sup>4</sup>	9:43
4:05		
7:53	8 Fantasia on Bellini’s <i>Beatrice di Tenda</i> <sup>5</sup>	11:00
14:22		
5:28	9 Une bouche aimée <sup>6</sup>	5:14
4:39		
4:15	10 Tutto che il mondo serra: Chopin Terzetto (tr. Chopin: Etude, Op. 25, No. 7) <sup>7</sup>	4:47
6:35	11 Meditazione: Aria di Bach <sup>8</sup>	5:13



**Joel Quarrington, Double Bass  
Andrew Burashko, Piano** <sup>2-8</sup>

**Harold Hall Robinson, Double Bass** <sup>1</sup>  
**James Campbell, Clarinet** <sup>4</sup>  
**Monica Whicher, Soprano** <sup>6, 7</sup>



Sung texts and English translations included

The sung texts and translations can also be accessed at [www.naxos.com/libretti/557042.htm](http://www.naxos.com/libretti/557042.htm)

Recorded at Grace Church on-the-Hill, Toronto, Canada, on 16th February, 2004 (tracks 1-2); at the Performing Arts Centre, The Country Day School, King City, Ontario, from 27th to 29th July, 2005 (tracks 3-8 and 11); and at Glenn Gould Studio, CBC, Toronto, on 3rd July, 2006 (tracks 9 and 10)

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Booklet notes: Jeffrey L. Stokes • Cover image: *The Raincloud* by Antonio Fontanesi (1818-1882) (Galleria d’Arte Moderna, Florence, Italy / [www.bridgeman.co.uk](http://www.bridgeman.co.uk))

**NAXOS**

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**DDD**

Playing Time  
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