

Shortly after completing his breathtaking *Fifth Symphony*, Beethoven composed incidental music for Goethe's drama, *Egmont*. While the *Overture* is well known, the remaining movements deserve no less attention as they chart the tragic course of Count Egmont's rebellion against the Spanish occupation of the Netherlands and his ill-fated love for Clara, whose suicide Beethoven movingly portrays. Two *Marches*, composed at around the same time, and his concert aria *Ah! perfido*, written a decade earlier, complement one of Beethoven's most effective theatrical scores.

Ludwig van
BEETHOVEN
(1770-1827)

Incidental Music to 'Egmont', Op. 84

Music for Goethe's Tragedy 'Egmont', Op. 84	40:15
1 Overture	9:03
2 No. 1 Act I, Scene 3: Die Trommel gerühret! (Clärchen)*	2:55
3 No. 2 First Entr'acte: Andante	3:37
4 No. 3 Second Entr'acte: Larghetto	5:48
5 No. 4 Act III, Scene 2: Freudvoll und leidvoll (Clärchen)*	1:28
6 No. 5 Third Entr'acte: Allegro – Marcia, Vivace	4:18
7 No. 6 Fourth Entr'acte: Larghetto	3:40
8 No. 7 Act V, Scene 3: Death of Clärchen	2:38
9 No. 8 Act V, Scene 4: Melodrama (Egmont)**	5:23
10 No. 9 Act V, Scene 4: Symphony of Victory	1:25
11 March No. 1 in F major (Yorck'scher Marsch), WoO 18	1:27
12 March No. 2 in F major, WoO 19	1:47
13 Scena and Aria: Ah! perfido, Op. 65*	11:47

Madeleine Pierard, Soprano* • Claus Obalski, Narrator**
New Zealand Symphony Orchestra • James Judd

Recorded at the Michael Fowler Centre, Wellington, New Zealand, from 10th-12th February, 2003 (tracks 1, 3, 4, 6-12), and at Wellington Town Hall on 14th and 15th August, 2007 (Tracks 2, 5, 13)

The sung and spoken texts are included in the booklet, and may also be accessed at www.naxos.com/libretti/557264.htm • Producer and engineer: Tim Handley • Booklet notes: Keith Anderson

Cover painting: *Egmont's Final Hour* by Louis Gallait (1810-87)
(Hamburger Kunsthalle, Hamburg, Germany / The Bridgeman Art Library)



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Playing Time
55:15


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