

Unlike his two Cello Concertos, performed by Maria Kliegel on Naxos 8.553039, Saint-Saëns' Cello Sonatas are underrated works. The turbulent *Cello Sonata No. 1*, which makes full use of the lower registers of both cello and piano, reflects the composer's sadness at the loss of a great-aunt and at the state of France following Napoleon III's crushing defeat by Prussia at Sedan in 1870. Written more than 30 years later, the *Cello Sonata No. 2* is a more ambitious and original work. 'The Adagio will bring tears to your eyes,' Saint-Saëns wrote to his publisher, Durand, while the last movement, propelled forward in the manner of a toccata, '...will wake anyone who's slept through the rest of the piece'.

Camille  
SAINT-SAËNS  
(1835-1921)

Music for Cello and Piano

Sonata No. 1 in C minor for Cello and Piano, Op. 32

|   |                              |       |
|---|------------------------------|-------|
| 1 | Allegro                      | 21:49 |
| 2 | Andante tranquillo sostenuto | 9:05  |
| 3 | Allegro moderato             | 6:18  |

Suite for Cello and Piano, Op. 16

|   |                           |       |
|---|---------------------------|-------|
| 4 | Prélude: Moderato assai   | 23:15 |
| 5 | Sérénade: Andantino       | 2:38  |
| 6 | Scherzo: Allegro grazioso | 3:16  |
| 7 | Romance: Adagio           | 4:40  |
| 8 | Finale: Allegro con brio  | 7:00  |

Sonata No. 2 in F major for Cello and Piano, Op. 123

|    |   |       |
|----|---|-------|
| 9  | Maestoso, largamente – Tranquillo       | 10:14 |
| 10 | Scherzo con variazioni: Allegro animato | 8:28  |
| 11 | Romanza: Poco adagio                    | 7:13  |
| 12 | Allegro non troppo grazioso             | 6:33  |

Maria Kliegel, Cello • François-Joël Thiollier, Piano

Deutschlandfunk

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(Private Collection/Bridgeman Art Library, London)



8.557880

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Playing Time  
77:32



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