

## OPERA EXPLAINED

This series introduces, in words and music, the plot and background of major operas. Using the principal themes and arias, taken from the Naxos recording of the complete work, Thomson Smillie is informative yet entertaining, enabling the listener to get more from this remarkable art form.

# An Introduction to... VERDI La Traviata

written by Thomson Smillie  
narrated by David Timson

*La Traviata* owes its enduring popularity to a superb story of young love and fatal sacrifice, set to music by Italy's master melodist at the peak of his powers. Interest and poignancy are added by the fact that this is a true story – the baritone 'heavy' is Alexander Dumas who wrote *The Count of Monte Cristo*. But it is the central figure, the heroine Violetta, the archetypal 'whore with the heart of gold', who dominates the piece. It is her opera and we love her for it.

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