

Edgar Degas (1834–1917) is remembered as the painter of ballet dancers, but the scope of his genius ranged widely. An acute and witty observer, he depicted his native Paris in its many diverse aspects, often hinting at a social isolation and unease hidden beneath the colourful surface. On this CD, the world of Degas is given a musical perspective with a carefully chosen selection of pieces by the finest composers of his time. Inside, Hugh Griffith provides explanatory notes on his life and musical environment.

**Adolphe Adam (1803–1856)**  
Giselle, Act I

[1] Allegro un peu lourdé 2:34  
 [2] Galop général 3:12

**Charles-Valentin Alkan (1813–1888)**

[3] Prelude, Op. 31 No. 13 'J'étais endormie, mais mon cœur veillait' 4:23  
 [4] Prelude, Op. 31 No. 17 'Rêve d'amour' 2:43

**Charles Gounod (1818–1893)**  
Faust

[5] Ballet music: Allegretto 2:24  
 [6] Ballet music: Adagio 3:48  
 [7] Ballet music: Allegretto 1:29

**Charles-Valentin Alkan**

[8] Esquisse, Op. 63 No. 5 'Les Initiés' 2:28  
 [9] Esquisse, Op. 63 No. 16 'Fantaisie' 1:20

**Léo Delibes (1836–1891)**  
Coppélia, Act I

[10] Valse 2:23  
 [11] Mazurka 4:12

**Georges Bizet (1838–1875)**  
Carmen – Suite No. 1

[12] Prelude 1:27

[13] Aragonaise 2:20  
 [14] Intermezzo 2:47  
 [15] Seguidilla 1:55  
 [16] Les Dragons d'Alcalá 1:44  
 [17] Marche du toréador 2:19

**Gabriel Fauré (1845–1924)**  
Dolly Suite

[18] Berceuse 2:20  
 [19] Mi-a-ou 1:46  
 [20] Kitty Valse 2:15  
 [21] Le Pas espagnol 2:09

**Emmanuel Chabrier (1841–1894)**  
Joyeuse Marche

**Claude Debussy (1862–1918)**  
Arabesque No. 2 3:31  
 Rêverie 4:19  
 Pour le piano – Toccata 3:58

**Igor Stravinsky (1882–1971)**  
Firebird Suite (1919)

[26] Berceuse 4:17  
 [27] Finale 3:34

TT 76:19

The Naxos Art and Music series presents the composers active during the lives of the leading painters and sculptors, setting a musical context to their work.

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Playing time  
1:16:19



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