

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...

MASSENET

Werther

written by **Thomson Smillie**

narrated by **David Timson**

Massenet's *Werther* combines a deeply tender story with music of beauty and eloquence. One act alone contains two of the greatest arias in the repertoire: the mezzo-soprano aria 'Va! Laisse couler mes larmes' and the tenor's 'Pourquoi me réveiller'. In their sentimental power and melodic richness these arias encapsulate the qualities that account for the universal popularity of this great work.

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STEREO

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