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At a time when there were limited opportunities to attend the opera house, and before the existence of recordings, the operatic fantasy proved a popular and ingenious way to spread great melodies to a wider audience. Some classics of the genre are heard in this second volume – not least Wilhelmj's arrangement of Handel and Kreisler's beautifully tranquil arrangement of Gluck – but there are also memorable examples from Verdi and from Hubay's piquant opera *Le Luthier de Crémone*, as well as two vivid contemporary examples that continue the genre into the twenty-first century.

## OPERA FANTASIES FOR VIOLIN • 2

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| <p><b>1</b> Giuseppe Verdi (1813-1901),<br/>arr. Benjamin Loeb: <i>Preludio</i> (from<br/><i>I Lombardi</i>, Act 3) (1843/2014) <b>4:01</b></p> <p><b>2</b> Pyotr Il'yich Tchaikovsky (1840-93),<br/>arr. Leopold Auer: <i>Lensky's Aria</i><br/>(from <i>Eugene Onegin</i>) (1878/1921) <b>5:32</b></p> <p><b>3</b> Daron Aric Hagen (b. 1961):<br/><i>Valse Blanche – How Love Comes</i>,<br/>Tangiers, October 1958 (2014)* <b>6:14</b></p> <p><b>4</b> Pablo de Sarasate (1844-1908):<br/><i>Nouvelle Fantaisie sur des Thèmes</i><br/><i>de Faust</i> (Gounod) (1900) <b>11:43</b></p> <p><b>5</b> Christoph Willibald Gluck (1714-87),<br/>arr. Fritz Kreisler: <i>Mélodie</i> (from<br/><i>Orfeo ed Euridice</i>) (1774/1913) <b>2:30</b></p> | <p><b>6</b> Jenő Hubay (1858-1937):<br/><i>Le Luthier de Crémone</i> (1895) <b>3:16</b></p> <p><b>7</b> Bohuslav Martinů (1890-1959),<br/>arr. Benjamin Loeb: <i>Variations on a</i><br/><i>Theme of Rossini</i> (1942/2014)* <b>8:04</b></p> <p><b>8</b> George Frideric Handel (1685-1759),<br/>arr. August Wilhelmj: <i>Largo</i><br/>(from <i>Xerxes</i>) (1738/1905) <b>5:01</b></p> <p><b>9</b> Jonathan Berger (b. 1954):<br/><i>Fantasy on themes from</i><br/><i>The War Reporter</i> (2014)* <b>11:35</b></p> <p><b>10</b> Giuseppe Verdi, arr. Benjamin Loeb:<br/><i>Solenne in quest'ora</i> (from <i>La forza</i><br/><i>del destino</i>, Act 3) (1861/2014)<sup>†*</sup> <b>3:54</b></p> |
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\* WORLD PREMIÈRE RECORDING

**Livia Sohn, Violin**  
**Benjamin Loeb, Piano • Geoff Nuttall, Viola<sup>†</sup>**

Recorded in Campbell Recital Hall, Stanford University, California, USA, from 19th to 21st December, 2014

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