

A highly regarded composer in his day and considered the equal of Rossini, Bellini and Donizetti, Saverio Mercadante pioneered the transformation of *bel canto* opera into real music drama. He wrote the operatic tragedy *I Briganti* (The Brigands) not only to prove himself to the Parisian public but as a direct challenge to Bellini's *I puritani*, premièred the previous year. Mercadante's individual style of *canto fiorito* and distinctive theatricality demonstrate that opera need not be a mere succession of virtuoso vocal arias, and it paved the way for Verdi's later dramas. Prepared from a new critical edition, this production was described as 'outstanding' by *The New York Times*.

Deutschlandradio Kultur

Saverio MERCADANTE

(1795-1870)

 ROSSINI
IN WILDBAD
Mercadante Opera Festival

I Briganti

Melodramma serio in Three Parts • Libretto by Jacopo Crescini
WORLD PREMIERE RECORDING

Massimiliano Bruno Praticò, Bass
Ermano Maxim Mironov, Tenor
Corrado Vittorio Prato, Baritone
Amelia Petya Ivanova, Soprano
Teresa Rosita Fiocco, Mezzo-soprano
Bertrando Atanas Mladenov, Baritone
Rollero Jesús Ayllón, Tenor

Camerata Bach Choir, Poznań • Chorus-master: Tomasz Potkowski

Virtuosi Brunensis • Artistic Director: Karel Mitáš

Antonino Fogliani

CD 1	1-19 Part I	67:58	CD 2	1-9 Part II	34:57
				10-19 Part III	34:57

Recorded live at the Trinkhalle, Bad Wildbad, Germany, 14th, 18th and 21st July, 2012
for the XXIV ROSSINI IN WILDBAD Festival (Artistic director: Jochen Schönleber)

A Co-production with Deutschlandradio Kultur • Producer: Siebert Ernst
Engineers: Norbert Vossen and Sigi Mehne • Editor: Stefan Lang • Booklet Notes: Dr Michael Wittmann
Cover photo: Patrick Pfeiffer • New edition from the manuscripts after the research of Dr Michael Wittmann,
edited by Florian Bauer • The Italian libretto may be accessed at www.naxos.com/libretti/660343.htm



DDD

8.660343-44

Playing Time
2:17:52



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Booklet Notes and Synopsis in English
Kommentar und Inhaltsangabe auf Deutsch
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