

The music of Iranian composer Behzad Abdi fuses *dastgāh* (the Iranian modal system) with Western classical forms. He wrote Iran's first national opera, *Rumi* (Naxos 8.660424-25), and *Hafez* also exemplifies his approach to the medium. The opera's subject is the great Persian poet and mystic Hafez, whose sonnets and poetry are still widely read across the Persian-speaking world today. Behrouz Gharibpour's libretto traces the poet's tribulations, memories of keeping his poems from being destroyed by a despotic government, and subsequent exile. Abdi's polytonal technique serves to reflect the unique concepts of Hafez's 14th-century poetry with passion, lyricism and power.

Behzad
ABDI
(b. 1973)
Hafez (2013)
Opera in two acts

Libretto by Behrouz Gharibpour (b. 1950)

| | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Hafez | Mohammad Motamedi, Tenor |
| Obeid Zakani | Hossein Alishapour, Tenor |
| Sultan Mobrezedin | Babak Sabouri, Baritone |
| Poet / Khayyam | Eshaq Anvar, Tenor |
| Mohammad Gol-andam .. | Mohammad Zakerhossein, Tenor |
| Farmer | Ali Zandevakili, Tenor |
| Shakh-e Nabat | Haleh Seyfizadeh, Mezzo-soprano |

Credo Chamber Choir • Bogdan Plish
National Symphony Orchestra of Ukraine • Vladimir Sirenko

WORLD PREMIERE RECORDING

CD 1
1–9 Act I

53:12 CD 2
1–7 Act II

52:15

A full track and cast list can be found inside the booklet.
The Persian libretto can be accessed at www.naxos.com/libretti/660426.htm

Recorded: 12 February 2014 at Dom Zvukozapisi (The House of Recording), Kyiv, Ukraine

Producer: Alexander Hornostai • Engineer: Andrii Mokritskyi

Editors: Andrii Mokritskyi, Hamid Adab • Edition: Composer's manuscript

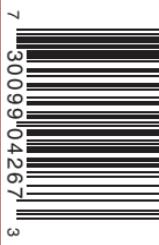
Cover: *Hafez* (1970) by Abolhassan Sadighi (1894–1995)

NAXOS

8.660426-27

DDD

Playing Time
1:45:27



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Booklet notes and synopsis in English
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