

Victor Hugo

The Hunchback of Notre Dame

Read by **Bill Homewood**

In the grotesque bell-ringer Quasimodo, Victor Hugo created one of the most vivid characters in classic fiction. Quasimodo's doomed love for the beautiful gipsy girl Esmeralda is an example of the traditional love theme of beauty and the beast. Yet, set against the massive background of Notre Dame de Paris and interwoven with the sacred and secular life of medieval France, it takes on a larger perspective.

The characters come to life: the poet Gringoire, the tormented priest Claude Frollo, the upright, fun-loving captain Phoebus and above all Quasimodo and Esmeralda themselves.

It is a tale peppered with humour but fuelled by the anguish which unfolds beneath the bells of the great cathedral of Paris.



Bill Homewood lives in the South of France, where he and his wife, actress Estelle Kohler, keep Portuguese horses on their ranch in the foothills of the Cévennes. Bill has worked extensively on television, film and radio, on stage in the West End, major theatres in Britain and America and with the RSC. His other recordings for Naxos Audiobooks include *The Count Of Monte Cristo*, *The Three Musketeers*, *The Man In The Iron Mask*, *Les Misérables*, *The Lady of the Camellias* and *The Moonstone*.

'Homewood's voice and the well-chosen music serve to create an atmosphere where darkness, terror and fear of witchcraft reign.'

The Times

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