



The wild originality of Charles-Valentin Alkan was little appreciated during his lifetime (1813–88), nor during the century which followed, when he was largely lost from sight. But now Alkan is increasingly recognised as one of the most individual personalities in all music. The five albums he called *Recueils de Chants* – miniature tone-poems which marry Classical constraint to virtuoso Romantic excess – provide an attractive gateway to his freewheeling imagination.



ALKAN Complete *Recueils de Chants*, Volume Two

Quatrième Recueil de Chants, Op. 67 (c.1868) 22:30

1	No. 1 <i>Neige et lave</i>	2:58
2	No. 2 <i>Chanson de la bonne vieille</i>	3:04
3	No. 3 <i>Bravement</i>	3:03
4	No. 4 <i>Doucement</i>	2:58
5	No. 5 <i>Appassionato</i>	3:45
6	No. 6 <i>Barcarolle</i>	6:42

Deux Nocturnes, Op. 57 (1859) 9:57

13	No. 1 <i>Andantino</i>	6:39
14	No. 2 <i>Très vif</i>	3:18

Deux Petites Pièces, Op. 60 (1859) 9:48

15	No. 1 <i>Ma chère liberté – Focosamente ma Sostenuto molto – Quasi Scherzando</i>	4:28
16	No. 2 <i>Ma chère servitude – Poco lento</i>	5:20

Cinquième Recueil de Chants, Op. 70 (c.1872) 25:36

7	No. 1 <i>Duettino</i>	3:54
8	No. 2 <i>Andantinetto</i>	2:38
9	No. 3 <i>Allegro vivace</i>	3:23
10	No. 4 <i>La voix de l'instrument</i>	2:48
11	No. 5 <i>Scherzo-Coro</i>	6:00
12	No. 6 <i>Récapitulation – Barcarolle</i>	6:53

Désir. Fantaisie (1844) 3:14

Chapeau bas! Seconda fantasticheria (1872)* 8:14

*FIRST RECORDING TT 79:19

Stephanie McCallum, piano

Critical comment on Volume One: 'this is really fantastic playing – stylistically exactly right, with an individual voice [...] if you really want to get to know what this Alkan guy is all about, then Stephanie McCallum can really show you very well indeed.'

Kenneth Hamilton, *CD Review*, BBC Radio 3

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