

Pauline Viardot (1821–1910) was one of the most extraordinary women in the history of music. Daughter of the Spanish tenor Manuel García and sister of the mezzo-soprano Maria Malibran, she studied piano with Liszt and counterpoint and harmony with Reicha, made her debut, also as a mezzo, at the age of sixteen and went on to inspire composers of the stature of Berlioz, Chopin, Gounod, Meyerbeer, Saint-Saëns, Schumann and Wagner. And she was no mean composer herself, as these passionate songs demonstrate. Twelve of them are arrangements of mazurkas by her good friend Frédéric Chopin; the others set some major poems in Russian, a language she spoke fluently.



PAULINE VIARDOT Songs

1	<i>Fifteen Russian songs, to texts by Fet, Koltsov, Lermontov, Pushkin, Turgenev and Tutchev</i> (1864–82)*	34:45
16	<i>Six mazourkes de Frédéric Chopin: Première série</i> (1864)	15:35
22	<i>Six mazourkes de Frédéric Chopin: Deuxième série</i> (1865)	18:42

Ina Kancheva, soprano

TT 69:05

Kamelia Kader, mezzo-soprano 21 27

*FIRST RECORDINGS

Christo Tanev, cello 11

Ludmil Angelov, piano

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