

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

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| 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

DDD

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