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 Playing Time  
 1:55:40


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 Booklet notes and synopsis in English  
 Σημειώσεις και σύντομη σκηνικά ελληνικά

Remembered today for the *Olympic Anthem*, Spyridon Samaras was the most distinguished Greek composer of his day and the first to gain international recognition. By the time *Mademoiselle de Belle-Isle* was produced, Samaras was a well-established and much-admired opera composer in the Italian Romantic style. The narrative of the opera sees the mischievous plans of the Duke of Richelieu descending into a complex tangle of amorous deceptions, tests of faithfulness and the perils of dueling. The score for this world premiere recording has been painstakingly restored by Byron Fidetzis.

Spyridon  
**SAMARAS**

(1861–1917)

## Mademoiselle de Belle-Isle

Opera in four acts (1903)

Libretto by Paul Milliet (1848–1924)

Sung in French

Chevalier d'Aubigny / A Lackey (I) ..... Angelo Simos, Tenor  
 Duc de Richelieu ..... Tassis Christoyannis, Baritone  
 Duc d'Aumont / A Lackey (II) ..... Pavlos Maropoulos, Bass  
 Chevalier d'Auvray ..... Pantelis Kontos, Baritone  
 Mademoiselle Gabrielle de Belle-Isle ..... Martha Arapis, Soprano  
 Marquise de Prie ..... Marina Krilovici, Soprano

Kaval Choir of Sofia • Michail Milkov, Chorus Master  
 Pazardzhik Symphony Orchestra (Georgi Koev, Leader)

Byron Fidetzis, Conductor

WORLD PREMIERE RECORDING

CD 1 1–8 Act I 28:31 9–16 Act II 29:31 CD 2 1 Intermezzo 3:10 2–10 Act III 22:54 11–20 Act IV 31:24

A detailed track list and full recording details can be found inside the booklet. A comprehensive analytical essay on the opera in English and Greek can be accessed at [www.naxos.com/notes/660508.htm](http://www.naxos.com/notes/660508.htm). The original French libretto with Greek, German and Italian translations can be accessed at [www.naxos.com/libretti/660508.htm](http://www.naxos.com/libretti/660508.htm)

'This work is dedicated to the memory of my beloved friend and precious colleague Georgi Koev (1947–2013), leader and co-founder of the great Pazardzhik Symphony Orchestra.' – Byron Fidetzis

The present release serves as a contribution to the 200th anniversary of the Greek Revolution of 1821.

Cover: *Seated Woman* (1716–17) by Antoine Watteau (1684–1721)