



8.556602

Tchaikovsky
Mozart
Vivaldi
Haydn
Beethoven
Rachmaninov
Grieg
Handel
Debussy
Schubert
Mendelssohn

DDD

Vocalise

CLASSICAL FAVOURITES FOR RELAXING AND DREAMING

VOCALISE brings you thirteen tracks of the most beautiful melodies in classical music selected to create that mood of relaxation ideal for the peaceful moments in life. The album has been created from the recordings in the extensive Naxos catalogue of compact discs, and performed by many of today's finest musicians....

It was an attractive woman who **Pyotr Il'yich Tchaikovsky** was never to meet, that provided him with money and the stimulus to keep him composing. His was the turbulent life of a great creative artist, sometimes idolised and yet so often criticised. In 1877 the ballet *Swan Lake* was given a dreadful opening performance at the Imperial Theatre in Moscow, the director of the company so unsure of the music's success that he inserted into the score some of the popular music of the time. It was only two years after Tchaikovsky's death that the work, given a new choreography, proved such a triumph that it was to become the most frequently performed ballet of our time. This charming *Andante* comes from the last act.

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart was the phenomenal prodigy in the history of music, and remains the most frequently performed composer of the classics. Born to a musical family in 1756, he and his sister were earning a living as soloists before they were teenagers. He was to live just thirty-five years, by which time he had composed a monumental amount of music, including the seventeen keyboard sonatas which form an indispensable part of the repertoire of all pianists. Wolfgang once wrote to his father that he hated the flute, yet he accepted commissions to compose works for the instrument, and in 1778 the Count of Guines asked for a *Concerto for Flute and Harp* which could be played by the Count and his daughter.

Antonio Vivaldi entered the world of today's 'pop' classics with the atmospheric *The Four Seasons*. In his later life he taught at a school for orphaned and abandoned girls, and achieved such excellence that famous musicians travelled to Pietà to hear the orchestra and soloists. It was a place where he could experiment musically, leading to his finest compositions, including the *Twelve Concertos for Violin and Strings*, one of which gave a very graphic picture of the four seasons.

Joseph Haydn was one of life's late starters, his major compositions coming after his fortieth birthday. He soon made up for lost time, in the last thirty-seven years of his life producing a prodigious quantity of music. Among that massive list are 104 symphonies, the *Ninety-sixth Symphony*, gaining the nickname *Miracle* when a chandelier crashed to the ground during a performance of the symphony, miraculously injuring no one. The *Andante* is the short and attractive third movement.

By 1807 **Ludwig van Beethoven** was almost deaf, and would not have heard the first performance of his *Fourth Piano Concerto*. Yet three years earlier, when he started work on the score, he was deeply in love with Josephine von Brunsvik, a recent widow and one of his piano pupils. That atmosphere of romance can be visualised in the repose of the concerto's *Andante* slow movement.

Sergey Rachmaninov was the great virtuoso pianist of his day, and the last of the important Russian composers of the romantic era. Having recovered, with the help of a hypnotist, from the trauma of the failure of his first symphony, he was to write the memorable melodies we hear in the concert hall today. Political changes forced Rachmaninov to emigrate, and in 1918

he took residence in the United States. His output was not vast, much of his time taken as a performer, but among his music was some attractive vocal scores, including the *Fourteen Songs* of 1912. The wordless *Vocalise* ends the group, and it was later transcribed by the composer as a gentle work for solo piano.

Edvard Grieg is the best known Norwegian composer of the 19th century. International recognition came with his piano concerto and the incidental music to Ibsen's play, *Peer Gynt*. At first Grieg thought he only had to supply atmospheric background, but found that much more was expected of him. In later life he extracted two orchestral suites, the second suite, completed in 1892, ending with the haunting *Solveig's Song*.

George Frederic Handel must have been one of the first musicians offered a transfer fee. He made such an impact on the musical world, that several royal courts were vying for his services. In 1710 he went to London and received such adulation, that he decided it was too good to miss. He settled there and served the Royal Court with distinction. In 1717 the King and courtiers decided to take a lazy trip down the River Thames. They were accompanied by a barge containing 30 musicians performing a new work by Handel, *The Water Music*. In a number of short movements, it contains a slow and stately *Adagio*. The appetite for his music in England was overwhelming, and in 1739 he composed *Twelve Concerti Grossi*, the *Largo* from the fourth concerto become one of his most popular melodies.

At the age of twelve **Claude Debussy** played Chopin's Second Piano Concerto in his debut concert, yet four years later, in 1878, he failed the Paris Conservatoire piano examination. He turned his attention to

composition, and five years later won the coveted Prix de Rome. He hated his time in Rome, and could not wait to be back in France. On his return two years later, he set to work on several compositions including the *String Quartet*, its ecstatic mood reflecting his own feelings on being home.

The musical world thought they had found Mozart's successor, when **Felix Mendelssohn** was composing symphonies at the age of twelve. He was to become a brilliant pianist, a fine conductor, and a skilled administrator. Among his best loved music is the dreamy *Nocturne* composed as part of the incidental music to Shakespeare's play, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. He was also a superb miniaturist, a series of fifty-eight piano works called, *Songs Without Words*, were split into eight books. The *Andante sostenuto* has become one of the best known, and forms part of the first book.

In 1828, the last year of **Franz Schubert's** short life, he completed the six pieces published under the title *Moments Musicaux*. Too poor to buy manuscript paper, he was a schoolteacher by day, and a composer by night, yet he produced a prodigious amount of orchestral works, songs and piano music. Fame eluded him in his lifetime, and much of his music, which is now popular, was not published until after his death. In the years that followed, the third of the *Moments Musicaux*, appeared in albums of solo piano music for the gifted amateur, and quickly established itself as one of his best known works.

8.556601 **Clair de lune**

8.556602 **Vocalise**

8.556603 **Pavane**

8.556604 **Ballade**

8.556605 **Cantabile**

8.556606 **Andante**

8.556607 **Prelude**

8.556608 **Pastorale**

8.556609 **Sonata**

8.556610 **Berceuse**

8.556611 **Etude**

8.556612 **Elégie**

8.556613 **Sarabande**

8.556614 **Meditation**

8.556615 **Liebesleid**

8.556616 **Intermezzo**

8.556617 **Rhapsody**

8.556618 **Romanza**

8.556619 **Serenade**

8.556620 **Nocturne**

**CLASSICAL
FAVOURITES
FOR RELAXING
AND DREAMING**

8.556602

Vocalise

NAXOS


COMPACT
disc
 DIGITAL AUDIO

 ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.
 UNAUTHORISED PUBLIC PERFORMANCE,
 BROADCASTING AND COPYING OF
 THIS COMPACT DISC PROHIBITED.
 © 1998-89 HNH International Ltd.
 © 1998 HNH International Ltd.

7

30099166022

8

 5537



8.556602



Vocalise

CLASSICAL FAVOURITES FOR RELAXING AND DREAMING

 Total Time
 70:17

NAXOS

Vocalise

8.556602

- | | | | | | |
|----------|--|------|-----------|---|------|
| 1 | TCHAIKOVSKY
Swan Lake - Andante
Slovak Philharmonic / Michael Halász
(from Naxos 8.550050) | 6:40 | 8 | HANDEL
Water Music - Adagio
Capella Istropolitana / Bohdan Warchal
(from Naxos 8.550109) | 3:02 |
| 2 | MOZART
Piano Sonata, K. 332 - Adagio
Peter Nagy <i>piano</i> (from Naxos 8.550141) | 5:17 | 9 | DEBUSSY
String Quartet, Op. 10 - Andantino
Kodály Quartet (from Naxos 8.550249) | 8:09 |
| 3 | VIVALDI
The Four Seasons - Spring: Largo
Takako Nishizaki <i>violin</i> , Capella Istropolitana /
Stephen Gunzenhauser (from Naxos 8.550056) | 2:36 | 10 | MOZART
Flute and Harp Concerto, K.299 -
Andantino
Jiří Válek <i>flute</i> , Hana Müllerová <i>harp</i>
Capella Istropolitana / Richard Edlinger
(from Naxos 8.550159) | 7:30 |
| 4 | HAYDN
Symphony No. 96 in D major,
"Miracle" - Andante
Capella Istropolitana / Barry Wordsworth
(from Naxos 8.550139) | 5:04 | 11 | HANDEL
Concerto Grosso Op. 6, No. 4 - Largo
Capella Istropolitana / Jozef Kopelman
(from Naxos 8.550157) | 2:34 |
| 5 | BEETHOVEN
Piano Concerto No. 4 in G major,
Op. 58 - Andante
Stefan Vladar <i>piano</i> , Capella Istropolitana /
Barry Wordsworth (from Naxos 8.550122) | 5:36 | 12 | SCHUBERT
Moment Musical
Peter Nagy <i>piano</i> (from Naxos 8.550053) | 5:43 |
| 6 | RACHMANINOV
Vocalise
Peter Nagy <i>piano</i> (from Naxos 8.550141) | 7:08 | 13 | MENDELSSOHN
A Midsummer Night's Dream - Notturmo
Slovak Philharmonic Orchestra / Anthony Bramall
(from Naxos 8.550055) | 6:24 |
| 7 | GRIEG
Peer Gynt Suite - Solveig's Song
CSSR State Philharmonic Orchestra /
Stephen Gunzenhauser (from Naxos 8.550140) | 4:34 | | | |

Collection previously issued as NIGHT MUSIC 2

 Distributed by: MVD GmbH. Fax 089-66503210, e-mail mvd.gmbh@t-online.de
 Cover photo: Mitre Peak, Milford Sound (New Zealand Tourism Board)

 Music Notes: David Denton
 Design: Ron Hoares