

The NAXOS logo is located in the top left corner. It consists of the word "NAXOS" in a white, serif font, centered within a blue square. Above the text are three horizontal white lines, and below it are three vertical white lines, creating a stylized architectural or musical motif.

The Best of CHOPIN

A photograph of a Parisian river scene, likely the Seine, during sunset or sunrise. The sky is a warm, golden-orange color. On the left, there is a large, dark stone building with a prominent spire. In the background, a bridge with several arches spans the river. The water reflects the light from the sky and the buildings.

**Raindrop
Prelude**

Ballade

Nocturne

**Piano
Concerto
No. 2**

Barcarolle

Minute Waltz

**Funeral
March**

and many others

DDD

8.556654

Fryderyk Chopin (1810–1849)

Born near Warsaw in 1810, the son of a French émigré and a Polish mother, Chopin won early fame in the relatively limited circles of his native country, before seeking his fortune abroad, in Paris. His departure from Warsaw coincided with the unsuccessful national rising against Russian domination and Chopin found himself in Paris in the company of a number of other Polish exiles. He was able to establish himself as a pianist and as a teacher of the piano, primarily in fashionable society.

For some ten years Chopin enjoyed a liaison with the writer George Sand, but broke with her during the last years of his life, brought to a close by the tuberculosis from which he had long suffered. His compositions, principally for the piano, make a remarkable use of the newly developed instrument, exploring its poetic possibilities while generally avoiding the more obvious ostentation of the Paris school of performers.

Orchestral Music

As a young musician embarking on a career as a pianist, Chopin provided himself with half a dozen works for piano and orchestra, a form for which he later found no necessity. These include two piano concertos, three works based on Polish themes, a fantasia, a *krakowiak* and a grand polonaise, and a set of variations on a theme by Mozart.

✓ **Recommended Recordings**

Piano Concertos Nos. 1 and 2

Naxos 8.550123

Piano Concerto No. 1 • Fantasia • Andante Spianato and Grand Polonaise

Naxos 8.550368

Piano Concerto No. 2 • *Krakowiak* • Mozart Variations

Naxos 8.550369

Chamber Music

Chopin wrote an *Introduction and Polonaise* for cello and piano for an early patron and towards the end of his life a *Cello Sonata*. His G minor *Piano Trio* is a valuable addition to recital repertoire.

✓ **Recommended Recording**

Cello Sonata • Polonaise brillante • Grand Duo

Naxos 8.553159

Piano Music

Chopin created or developed a number of new forms of piano music, vehicles for his own poetic use of the instrument, with its exploration of nuance, its original harmonies and its discreet but often considerable technical demands. He used the popular form of the waltz in a score of such compositions, of which the so-called *Minute Waltz* is probably the best known of many of almost equal familiarity. The Polish dance, the polonaise, elevated from village to ballroom, provided the basis of another characteristic form, in 16 such works, written between 1817, when Chopin was seven, and 1846. The best known, among generally familiar works, are the *Polonaise in A major, Op. 40 No. 1*, the *Polonaise in A flat major, Op. 53*, and the *Polonaise-Fantaisie, Op. 61*. Other Polish dances used by Chopin include the 62 *Mazurkas*. The four *Ballades* are supposedly based on patriotic poems by Chopin's friend Mickiewicz, evocative narrative works with no precise extra-musical association. The 21 *Nocturnes* continue an evocative form initiated by the Irish pianist John Field. Chopin wrote 26 *Preludes*, 24 of them completed during an ill-fated winter with George Sand in Mallorca and 27 *Studies*, of which the *Revolutionary Study* is perhaps the best known. Other compositions include four *Scherzos*, expansions of the earlier form into a more extended virtuoso piece, three *Sonatas*, a *Berceuse*, a *Barcarolle*, four *Impromptus* and a number of other works. The whole body of Chopin's music is of the greatest musical and technical importance, melodies often of operatic inspiration and harmonies and forms of considerable originality.

✓ **Recommended Recordings**

Ballades • Berceuse • Fantasie etc.

Naxos 8.550508

Etudes Opp. 10 and 25

Naxos 8.550364

Impromptus and Scherzi

Naxos 8.550362

Mazurkas (Complete), Vol. 1

Naxos 8.550358

Mazurkas (Complete), Vol. 2

Naxos 8.550359

Nocturnes (Complete), Vol. 1

Naxos 8.550356

Nocturnes (Complete), Vol. 2

Naxos 8.550357

Polonaises (Complete), Vol. 1

Naxos 8.550360

Polonaises (Complete), Vol. 2

Naxos 8.550361

Preludes (Complete) • Bourrées

Naxos 8.550366

Sonatas Nos. 1–3

Naxos 8.550363

Variations • Rondos etc.

Naxos 8.550367

Waltzes (Complete)

Naxos 8.550365

The Best of...

J.S. Bach	8.556656	Prokofiev	8.556681
Beethoven	8.556651	Puccini	8.556670
Berlioz	8.556678	Rachmaninov	8.556682
Bizet	8.556671	Ravel	8.556673
Brahms	8.556659	Rimsky-Korsakov	8.556674
Chopin	8.556654	Rossini	8.556683
Debussy	8.556663	Saint-Saëns	8.556675
Dvořák	8.556661	Schubert	8.556666
Elgar	8.556672	Schumann	8.556662
Fauré	8.556679	Shostakovich	8.556684
Grieg	8.556658	Sibelius	8.556677
Handel	8.556665	J. Strauss II	8.556664
Haydn	8.556668	Stravinsky	8.556685
Liszt	8.556667	Tchaikovsky	8.556652
Mendelssohn	8.556660	Verdi	8.556669
Mozart	8.556653	Vivaldi	8.556655
Paganini	8.556680	Wagner	8.556657
		Weber	8.556676

8.556654

COMPACT
disc
 DIGITAL AUDIO

 ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.
 UNAUTHORIZED PUBLIC PERFORMANCE,
 BROADCASTING AND COPYING OF
 THIS COMPACT DISC PROHIBITED.
 © 1990-92 & © 2020 Naxos Rights US, Inc.

8.556654

DDD

 The Best of
CHOPIN
 (1810-1849)

 Total Time
 79:21

NAXOS

The Best of CHOPIN

8.556654

- | | | | | | |
|----------|--|------|--|---|-------|
| 1 | Ballade No. 3 in A flat major, Op. 47
(from Naxos 8.550508) | 7:41 | 8 | Étude No. 3 in E major, Op. 10
(from Naxos 8.550364) | 4:35 |
| 2 | Mazurka No. 23 in D major, Op. 33, No. 2
(from Naxos 8.550358) | 2:35 | 9 | Waltz No. 6 in D flat major, Op. 64, No. 1 'Minute'
(from Naxos 8.550365) | 1:48 |
| 3 | Piano Concerto No. 2 in F minor, Op. 21 – Larghetto
With Slovak State Philharmonic Orchestra (Košice) • Robert Stankovsky
(from Naxos 8.550369) | 9:28 | 10 | Polonaise No. 6 in A flat major, Op. 53 'Heroic'
(from Naxos 8.550360) | 7:18 |
| 4 | Waltz No. 9 in A flat major, Op. posth. 69, No. 1 'Farewell'
(from Naxos 8.550365) | 5:04 | 11 | Prelude No. 15 in D flat major, Op. 28 'Raindrop'
(from Naxos 8.550366) | 5:52 |
| 5 | Nocturne No. 2 in E flat major, Op. 9
(from Naxos 8.550356) | 4:33 | 12 | Scherzo No. 2 in B flat minor, Op. 31
(from Naxos 8.550362) | 10:59 |
| 6 | Berceuse in D flat major, Op. 57
(from Naxos 8.550508) | 4:42 | 13 | Piano Sonata No. 2 in B flat minor, Op. 35 – Marche funèbre
(from Naxos 8.550508) | 9:16 |
| 7 | Fantaisie-Impromptu in C sharp minor, Op. 66
(from Naxos 8.550362) | 5:30 | All selections played by Idil Biret <i>piano</i> | | |

Cover photo by Andrej Reiser (Bilderberg)

 Booklet notes: Keith Anderson
 Cartoon: John Minnion

 Made in Germany
 www.naxos.com

The Best of CHOPIN

NAXOS


