

The NAXOS logo features the word "NAXOS" in a bold, white, sans-serif font, centered within a blue square. Above the text are five white, classical-style columns, and below it are five white, classical-style columns. The entire logo is set against a dark background.

NAXOS

3CDs

EASY-LISTENING PIANO CLASSICS

Chopin



CD 1

- | | | |
|----|--|------|
| 1 | Berceuse in D flat major op 57 | 4:38 |
| 2 | Étude no 13 in A flat major op 25 no 1 'Harp Study' | 2:31 |
| 3 | Polonaise no 8 in D minor op 71 no 1 | 6:07 |
| 4 | Nocturne no 8 in D flat major op 27 no 2 | 6:13 |
| | 24 Préludes op 28 | |
| 5 | No 1 in C major | 0:41 |
| 6 | No 4 in E minor | 2:20 |
| 7 | No 13 in F sharp major | 3:05 |
| 8 | Polonaise no 15 in A flat major | 6:01 |
| 9 | Andante spianato op 22 | 5:02 |
| 10 | Mazurka no 49 in F minor op 68 no 4 | 2:33 |
| 11 | Nocturne no 10 in A flat major op 32 no 2 | 4:17 |
| | 12 Études op 10 | |
| 12 | No 3 in E major | 4:22 |
| 13 | No 5 in G flat major 'Black Keys' | 1:44 |
| 14 | No 11 in E flat major | 2:41 |
| | Waltzes | |
| 15 | No 9 in A flat major op 69 no 1 'L'adieu' (Farewell) | 4:56 |
| 16 | No 10 in B minor op 69 no 2 | 4:01 |

All tracks performed by Idil Biret

Disc 1 playing time 61 minutes

CD 2

- | | |
|---|------|
| 1 Piano Sonata no 3 in B minor op 58 – III Largo | 9:09 |
| 2 Nocturne no 5 in F sharp major op 15 no 2 | 3:45 |
| Waltzes | |
| 3 No 11 in G flat major op 70 no 1 | 2:37 |
| 4 No 12 in F minor op 70 no 2 | 2:54 |
| 5 Nocturne no 17 in B major op 62 no 1 | 7:48 |
| 24 Préludes op 28 | |
| 6 No 6 in B minor | 2:16 |
| 7 No 7 in A major | 0:42 |
| 8 No 11 in B major | 0:40 |
| Waltzes | |
| 9 No 7 in C sharp minor op 64 no 2 | 3:52 |
| 10 No 8 in A flat major op 64 no 3 | 2:57 |
| 11 Mazurka no 29 in A flat major op 41 no 4 | 1:50 |
| Nocturnes | |
| 12 No 1 in B flat minor op 9 no 1 | 5:32 |
| 13 No 2 in E flat major op 9 no 2 | 4:28 |
| 14 Souvenir de Paganini, Variations in A major | 3:51 |
| 15 Ballade no 3 in A flat major op 47 | 7:42 |

All tracks performed by Idil Biret

Disc 2 playing time 60 minutes

CD 3

| | |
|--|------|
| 3 Nouvelles Études op posth | |
| 1 No 1 in F minor | 2:01 |
| 2 No 2 in A flat major | 2:30 |
| 3 No 3 in D flat major | 1:59 |
| 4 Cantabile in B flat major | 1:10 |
| 5 Nocturne no 20 in C sharp minor op posth | 3:59 |
| 6 Prélude no 15 in D flat major op 28 'Raindrop' | 5:47 |
| 7 Mazurka no 11 in E minor op 17 no 2 | 2:29 |
| 12 Études op 25 | |
| 8 No 5 in E minor | 3:43 |
| 9 No 9 in G flat major 'Butterfly's Wings' | 1:06 |
| 10 Piano Sonata no 1 in C minor op 4 – III Larghetto | 4:17 |
| 11 Waltz no 13 in D flat major op 70 no 3 | 2:53 |
| 12 Waltz no 19 in A minor op posth | 1:46 |
| 13 Mazurka no 41 in C sharp minor op 63 no 3 | 2:24 |
| 14 Andantino in G minor (arr. of Wiosna op 74 no 2) | 0:59 |
| 15 Moderato in E major 'Feuille d'Album' (Album Leaf) | 1:40 |
| 16 Mazurka no 47 in A minor op 68 no 2 | 3:03 |
| 17 Prélude no 25 in C sharp minor op 45 | 5:20 |

| | |
|--|------|
| 18 Waltz no 18 in E flat major op posth 'Sostenuto' | 2:05 |
| 19 Contredanse in G flat major | 1:59 |
| 20 Barcarolle op 60 | 8:42 |

All tracks performed by Idil Biret

Disc 3 playing time 60 minutes
Total playing time 3 hours and 1 minute

Naxos' Easy-Listening Piano Classics presents a delightful range of music from Baroque masterpieces to beautiful works of the Classic and Romantic eras, specially selected for discerning listeners to enjoy at home or work, while relaxing, entertaining or travelling.

CHOPIN

Fryderyk Chopin (1810-1849) was born in the village of Zelazowa Wola in Mazovia, the son of a French father and a Polish mother. This mixed heritage would weave like a double helix through Chopin's career as a composer-pianist. Following studies at Warsaw Conservatory (1826-29) and concerts given in Warsaw and Vienna (1829-30), Chopin settled in Paris in 1831. His most famous romantic liaison was with Aurore Dudevant (a.k.a. novelist George Sand), the years 1838-1847 coinciding with his most productive period. Shortly after their relationship ended, Chopin visited Britain in 1848, where his already precarious health deteriorated. Almost 3,000 people attended his funeral the following year at the Madelaine in Paris—though he remained a Polish patriot throughout his short life, he became a French citizen.

Although educated in the tradition of Beethoven, Haydn, Mozart and Clementi, and a great admirer of JS Bach, his music includes works based on both French and Polish models, as well as some innovations. Among the former may be counted his piano sonatas; Bach's counterpoint found its way (albeit metamorphosed) into his own multi-layered music; his many Waltzes are more Parisian than Viennese; his Polonaises and Mazurkas raised these Polish dance forms to unprecedented heights of artistic achievement. Similarly, he transformed the Nocturne, initially popularised by the Irish-born Russian-based John Field, into a form much more closely associated with himself. His Ballades, Études and Préludes were path-breaking and immensely influential. Two piano concertos, some songs and chamber works aside, he composed exclusively for the solo piano and preferred to perform privately at salons rather than in public concerts.

One of his piano students, Friederike Müller, wrote: 'His playing was always noble and beautiful; his tones sang, whether in full forte or softest piano. He took infinite pains to teach his pupils this legato, cantabile style of playing. His most severe criticism was "He—or she—does not know how to join two notes together.'" He also demanded the strictest adherence to rhythm. He hated all lingering and dragging, misplaced rubatos, as well as exaggerated ritardandos...and it is precisely in this respect that people make

such terrible errors in playing his works.’

It would be impossible to do even scant justice to the subtlety and sophistication of Chopin’s music, let alone his complex personality, in a short note such as this. Indeed, while the technicalities are certainly fascinating (as Charles Rosen shows in his learned and highly readable book *The Romantic Generation*), Chopin’s music is probably its own best advocate. Who else could write so many melodies that give the lie to Keats’ famous lines from *Ode on a Grecian Urn* that ‘Heard melodies are sweet, but those unheard are sweeter’? Who else could inflect harmony with such haunting subtlety—Bach? Mozart? Schumann? Rachmaninov? Who else could make such virtuosic demands without sacrificing emotional depth—Alkan? Bellini? Liszt? Paganini? Who else so completely fulfilled Robert Schumann’s immortal salutation of 1831, ‘Hats off, gentlemen, a genius!’?

While Chopin’s tragically early death—from chronic pulmonary tuberculosis or, as has recently been suggested, from cystic fibrosis?—raises the unanswerable question of what ‘late’ Chopin might have sounded like had he lived as long as Brahms, we have no cause for complaint regarding his musical legacy. As pianist Artur Schnabel remarked: ‘Chopin endures. His music is the universal language of human communication. When I play Chopin I know I speak directly to the hearts of people!’

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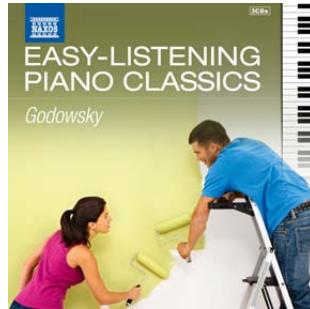
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EASY-LISTENING PIANO CLASSICS

Chopin

| CD 1 | CD 2 | CD 3 |
|--|--|--|
| 1 Berceuse op 57 4:38 | 1 Piano Sonata no 3 – III Largo 9:09 | 1-3 Nouvelles Études op posth 6:30 |
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| 8 Polonaise no 15 6:01 | 9-10 Waltzes nos 7 & 8 6:49 | 8-9 Études op 25 nos 5 & 9 4:49 |
| 9 Andante spianato op 22 5:02 | 11 Mazurka no 29 1:50 | 10 Piano Sonata no 1 – III Larghetto 4:17 |
| 10 Mazurka no 49 2:33 | 12-13 Nocturnes nos 1 & 2 10:00 | 11 Waltz no 13 2:53 |
| 11 Nocturne no 10 4:17 | 14 Souvenir de Paganini 3:51 | 12 Waltz no 19 1:46 |
| 12-14 Études op 10 nos 3, 5 & 11 8:47 | 15 Ballade no 3 7:42 | 13 Mazurka no 41 2:24 |
| 15-16 Waltzes nos 9 & 10 8:57 | | 14 Andantino in G minor 0:59 |
| | | 15 Feuille d'Album (Album Leaf) 1:40 |
| | | 16 Mazurka no 47 3:03 |
| | | 17 Prélude no 25 op 45 5:20 |
| | | 18 Waltz no 18 'Sostenuto' 2:05 |
| | | 19 Contredanse in G flat major 1:59 |
| | | 20 Barcarolle op 60 8:42 |

Disc 1 playing time 61 minutes

Disc 2 playing time 60 minutes

Disc 3 playing time 60 minutes

Total playing time 3 hours and 1 minute

All tracks performed by Idil Biret



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