

CLASSIC *f*M

more Famous Composers

written by Darren Henley

NAXOS  
AudioBooks



read by  
Marin Alsop



Includes more  
than 75 music  
excerpts



HANDEL

HAYDN

MENDELSSOHN

CHOPIN

RACHMANINOV

WILLIAMS

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<b>1</b>	<b>Introduction</b>	3:15
	Chopin: 'Minute' Waltz	
	Idil Biret, piano	8.550365
	Handel: Music for the Royal Fireworks	
	Capella Istropolitana; Bohdan Warchal	8.550109
	Williams: Star Wars	
	Richard Hayman Orchestra	8.555020
	Haydn: Trumpet Concerto	
	Niklas Edlund, trumpet; Swedish Chamber Orchestra; Roy Goodman	8.554806
	Mendelssohn: Violin Concerto	
	Takako Nishizaki, violin; Slovak Philharmonic Orchestra; Kenneth Jean	8.550153
	Chopin: Mazurka in Bb major Op. 7 No. 1	
	Idil Biret, piano	8.550358
	Rachmaninov: Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini	
	Bernd Glemser, piano; Polish National Radio Symphony Orchestra; Antoni Wit	8.550809
	Vivaldi: The Four Seasons – Spring	
	Takako Nishizaki, violin; Capella Istropolitana; Stephen Gunzenhauser	8.553219
	Vivaldi: Concerto in C for two trumpets	
	Niklas Eklund & Jeffrey Segal, trumpets; Wasa Baroque Ensemble; Edward H Tarr	8.555099

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Berlioz: Symphony Fantastique	
CSR Symphony Orchestra (Bratislava); Pinchas Steinberg	8.550093
Handel: Sonata in C major Op. 1 No. 7	
László Czidra, recorder; Zsolt Harsányi, recorder and bassoon; Zsuzsa Pertis, harpsichord; Pál Kelemen, violoncello	8.550700

<b>2</b> <b>George Frideric Handel</b>	7:52
Arrival of the Queen of Sheba	8.552110
Buxtehude: Toccata in G major	
Julia Brown, organ	8.555775
Handel: Rinaldo	
Opera in Concert; Aradia Ensemble; Kevin Mallon	8.660167

<b>3</b> <b>The Water Music and Fireworks Music</b>	4:21
Handel: Water Music	
Capella Istropolitana; Bohdan Warchal	8.550109
Handel: Music for the Royal Fireworks	
Capella Istropolitana; Bohdan Warchal	8.550109

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- 4 A Musical Duel and a Bad Temper 4:49  
Buxtehude: Toccata in G major  
Julia Brown, organ 8.555775  
Scarlatti: Sonata in D major, K 119 Allegro  
Laurence Cummings, harpsichord 8.554724
- 5 The Messiah, Zadok the Priest and a Recorder Sonata 7:24  
Handel: Messiah 8.552110  
Handel: Zadok the Priest 8.552110  
Handel: Sonata in G minor Op.1. No. 2  
László Czidra, recorder; Zsolt Harsányi, recorder and bassoon;  
Zsuzsa Pertis, harpsichord; Pál Kelemen, violoncello 8.550700
- 6 **Franz Josef Haydn** 6:37
- 7 String Quartets and Piano Sonatas 2:29  
String Quartet in C major Op.76 No. 3 Hob. III:77  
Kodály Quartet 8.550314  
Sonata No. 34 in D major Hob. XVI: 33  
Jenő Jandó, piano 8.553800

8	The Nelson Mass and Concerto for Trumpet	3:27
	Nelson Mass	
	Viktoria Loubianetz, soprano; Gabriele Sima, contralto; Kurt Azesberger, tenor; Robert Holzer, bass; Hungarian Radio and Television Chorus; Nicolaus Esterházy Sinfonia; Béla Drahos	8.554416
	Haydn: Trumpet Concerto	
	Niklas Eklund, trumpet; Swedish Chamber Orchestra; Roy Goodman	8.554806
9	His Biggest Achievement – The Symphonies	7:37
	Symphony No. 83 in G minor ‘The Hen’ – Andante	
	Capella Istropolitana; Barry Wordsworth	8.550114
	Symphony No. 83 in G minor ‘The Hen’ – Vivace	
	Capella Istropolitana; Barry Wordsworth	8.550114
	Symphony No. 45 in F# minor ‘Farewell’ – Presto	
	Capella Istropolitana; Barry Wordsworth	8.553222
	Symphony No. 94 in G major ‘Surprise’ – Andante	
	Capella Istropolitana; Barry Wordsworth	8.553222
	Symphony No. 101 in D major ‘The Clock’ – Andante	
	Capella Istropolitana; Barry Wordsworth	8.553222
	Symphony No. 96 in D major ‘The Miracle’ – Vivace assai	
	Capella Istropolitana; Barry Wordsworth	8.550139

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- 10 His Final Symphony and a Requiem 4:04  
Symphony No. 104 in D major 'The London' – Spiritoso  
Capella Istropolitana; Barry Wordsworth 8.550287  
Mozart: Requiem  
Slovak Philharmonic Orchestra and Chorus; Zdenek Kosler 8.550235  
Symphony No. 104 in D major 'The London' – Spiritoso  
Capella Istropolitana; Barry Wordsworth 8.550287
- 11 **Felix Mendelssohn** 3:24
- 12 The Octet and a Midsummer Night's Dream 4:48  
Octet in Eb major Op. 20 – Allegro moderato, ma con fuoco  
Kodály Quartet 8.557270  
Incidental Music to 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' – Overture  
Slovak Philharmonic Orchestra; Anthony Bramall 8.554433  
Incidental Music to 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' – Wedding March  
Slovak Philharmonic Orchestra; Anthony Bramall 8.554433
- 13 Mendelssohn the Conductor 1:59  
J.S. Bach: St Matthew Passion  
Hungarian Festival Choir; Hungarian State Symphony Orchestra;  
Géza Oberfrank 8.550832-34

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|----|---|----------|
| 14 | Hebrides Overture, Scottish and Italian Symphonies                            | 5:00     |
|    | Hebrides Overture   |          |
|    | Slovak Philharmonic Orchestra; Oliver Dohnányi                                | 8.554433 |
|    | Symphony No. 3 in A minor 'Scottish' – Allegro vivacissimo                    |          |
|    | National Symphony Orchestra of Ireland; Reinhard Seifried                     | 8.553200 |
|    | Symphony No. 4 in A major 'Italian' – Saltarello: Presto                      |          |
|    | National Symphony Orchestra of Ireland; Reinhard Seifried                     | 8.553200 |
| 15 | The Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra and in England                               | 3:20     |
| 16 | The Violin Concerto and Piano Concerto No. 1                                  | 3:58     |
|    | Violin Concerto – Allegro molto appassionato                                  |          |
|    | Takako Nishizaki, violin; Slovak Philharmonic Orchestra; Kenneth Jean         | 8.550153 |
|    | Piano Concerto No. 1 in G minor Op. 25 – Presto                               |          |
|    | Benjamin Frith, piano; Slovak State Philharmonic Orchestra; Robert Stankovsky | 8.550681 |
|    | Octet in Eb major Op. 20 – Presto   |          |
|    | Kodály Quartet  | 8.557270 |

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- 17 Frédéric Chopin** 5:25  
Nocturne in Eb Op. 9 No. 2 / Etude in E Op. 10 No. 3 8.550291  
Istvan Székely, piano
- 18 Chopin in Paris, Mazurkas and Piano Concertos** 4:45  
Mazurka in Bb major Op. 7 No. 1 8.550358  
Idil Biret, piano  
Piano Concerto No. 2 in F minor Op. 21 – Allegro vivace  
Piano Concerto No. 1 in E minor Op. 11 – Allegro maestoso 8.550123  
István Székely, piano; Budapest Symphony Orchestra; Gyula Németh
- 19 Preludes, Minute Waltz, George Sand and Bad Weather** 5:51  
Prelude No. 10 Op. 28 8.554536  
Idil Biret, piano  
'Minute Waltz' 8.550365  
Idil Biret, piano  
Prelude No. 15 Op. 28 'Raindrop' 8.554536  
Idil Biret, piano  
Piano Sonata No. 2 in Bb minor Op. 35 – Marche funèbre: Lento 8.550363  
Idil Biret, piano
- 20 England and Back and A Funeral** 3:26  
Waltz in Eb major Op. 18 8.550365  
Idil Biret, piano



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- 21** **Sergei Rachmaninov** 5:38  
Piano Concerto No. 1 in F# minor Op. 1 – Allegro vivace  
Bernd Glemser, piano; Polish National Radio Symphony Orchestra; Antoni Wit 8.550809  
Prelude in C# minor Op. 3  
Idil Biret, piano 8.550348
- 22** **An Opera and Symphonic Disaster** 5:01  
Aleko  
Sofia National Opera Chorus and Orchestra; Nayden Todorov 8.557817  
Symphony No. 1 – Allegro vivace  
National Symphony Orchestra of Ireland; Alexander Anissimov 8.550806  
The Rock Op. 7  
National Symphony Orchestra of Ireland; Alexander Anissimov 8.550805
- 23** **Silence. 2nd Piano Concerto and 2nd Symphony** 4:59  
Piano Concerto No. 2 in C minor Op. 18 – Allegro scherzando  
Bernd Glemser, piano; Polish National Radio Symphony Orchestra; Antoni Wit 8.550810  
Symphony No. 2 in E minor Op. 27 – Allegro molto  
CSR Symphony Orchestra; Stephen Gunzenhauser 8.550272

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<b>24</b>	<b>3rd Piano Concerto and Paganini Variations</b>	4:41
	Piano Concerto No. 3 in D minor Op. 30 – Allegro ma non tanto	
	Bernd Glemser, piano; Polish National Radio Symphony Orchestra; Antoni Wit	8.550810
	Paganini: Caprice No. 24 in A minor Op. 1	
	Ilya Kaler, violin	8.550717
	Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini Op. 43 Variation 18	
	Bernd Glemser, piano; Polish National Radio Symphony Orchestra; Antoni Wit	8.550809
<b>25</b>	<b>4th Piano Concerto, Homesickness and Motor Cars</b>	5:17
	Piano Concerto No. 4 in G minor Op. 40 – Largo	
	Bernd Glemser, piano; Polish National Radio Symphony Orchestra; Antoni Wit	8.550809
	Song of the Volga Boatmen	
	Red Army Choir and Band; Victor Fedorov	8.556833
	Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini Op. 43 Theme	
	Bernd Glemser, piano; Polish National Radio Symphony Orchestra; Antoni Wit	8.550809
	Symphony No. 2 in E minor Op. 27 – Allegro molto	
	CSR Symphony Orchestra; Stephen Gunzenhauser	8.550272
	Piano Concerto No. 2 in C minor Op. 18 – Allegro scherzando	
	Bernd Glemser, piano; Polish National Radio Symphony Orchestra; Antoni Wit	8.550810
<b>26</b>	<b>John Williams</b>	4:53
	ET / Indiana Jones	
	Philharmonic Rock Orchestra; Richard Hayman	8.990001

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27	Collaboration with Spielberg – ET, Jaws, Superman, Star Wars	4:12
	The Sugarland Express / Jaws	
	City of Prague Philharmonic Orchestra & Crouch End Festival Chorus;	
	Paul Bateman & Nic Raine	TVPMCD810 courtesy Silva Screen
	Superman	
	Philharmonic Rock Orchestra; Richard Hayman	8.990001
	Star Wars	
	Richard Hayman and his Orchestra	8.555020
28	John Williams talks about Star Wars	2:02
29	Harry Potter and Schindler's List	6:01
	Harry Potter	
	City of Prague Philharmonic Orchestra & Crouch End Festival Chorus;	
	Paul Bateman & Nic Raine	FILMXCD 360 courtesy Silva Screen
	Schindler's List	
	Razumovsky Symphony Orchestra; Long Yu	8.556807
	ET	
	Philharmonic Rock Orchestra; Richard Hayman	8.990001

**Total time: 2:16:52**

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Darren Henley

# FAMOUS COMPOSERS

Each of these Famous Composers creates a unique sound world. In the first volume you listened to the stories of six composers, and considered what is meant by ‘classical music’. Here in volume two we discover a further six, beginning in the eighteenth century and reaching right up to the present day with the music from *Harry Potter*!

What makes a composer famous? Is it simply musical genius alone? Perhaps not, since we know there were brilliant composers whose work has been put to the bottom of the pile. Perhaps fame has something to do with the purpose for which the music was composed: Haydn held a prestigious musical job with the Esterházy family and therefore composed extensively. Maybe luck also plays a part: Mendelssohn had the benefit of a family who encouraged him musically and provided him with an orchestra.

Fashions for music change with time and yet there remains what we now call a ‘canon’ of Western classical music. Once a composer is in this special ‘list’, he is likely to stay there for hundreds of years, partly because people tend to follow what their ancestors considered to be the best music.

But it is the music itself that has to withstand the test of time – after all, we are still performing and listening to Handel’s work even though he has been dead for over 200 years. Will future generations list John Williams among the ‘great composers’?

The only way to judge music is to listen to it yourself and form your own opinion. You may not like every piece by the same composer – as you will hear, a composer’s style can change even within his or her lifetime. Here, you can judge for yourself some of the biggest names in classical music – and remember, your opinion cannot be wrong!



**George Frideric Handel** (1685–1759) was a strong-willed, vigorous man who pursued a highly successful career in music despite his parents' disapproval. It is unusual for such an early composer that his parents were not musicians: his father was a barber-surgeon! Handel was, however, a brilliant performer and started composing music at the age of nine. He travelled in Europe and wrote music for spectacular royal occasions in England. Quite the businessman, Handel would also arrange his singers to perform whole seasons of opera; and if they threw a tantrum, he would simply threaten to bundle them out of the window to calm them down! Sadly, at the end of his life Handel became blind, but he was still able to play the organ brilliantly.



**Franz Joseph Haydn** (1732–1809) had a wicked sense of humour and enjoyed making musical 'jokes' in his pieces. As a young boy he had a beautiful singing voice,

so when he was eight his parents sent him to Vienna to be a choirboy in St Stephen's Cathedral. Later, Haydn spent thirty years in a job that would have been any composer's dream: he was *Kapellmeister* for Prince Esterházy. He wrote music for the prince's chapel, but also for his private opera house and his puppet theatre. Haydn therefore wrote a huge amount of music – including 104 symphonies! He also spent a lot of time in the musical capital Vienna, where he played with Mozart in a string quartet in the 1780s. During Haydn's lifetime the growth of public concerts meant that his music was heard in many cities and countries.



**Felix Mendelssohn** (1809–1847) came from a privileged and wealthy background. His Jewish family were bankers whose home was a meeting place for intellectuals and artists. Felix and his older sister Fanny, also a composer, were brought up surrounded by music. By the time he was fifteen, Felix conducted the family orchestra

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playing music he had composed! Can you imagine having a family orchestra? He pursued a highly successful musical career as a composer, pianist, organist and conductor. He even founded the Leipzig Conservatory of Music, ensuring good music education for future generations.



**Frédéric Chopin** (1810–1849), a brilliant pianist, was born in Poland but lived later in Paris. There he became a fashionable piano teacher and also published some of his music. Nearly all his compositions are for the piano. He played with a delicate, Romantic touch that his contemporaries had not heard before. He was, however, a frail and fastidious personality who did not like giving public concerts. Instead he preferred playing in the intimate setting of friends' houses, where he would improvise entire concerts for small groups of acquaintances who would listen in awe. His ten-year romance with the famous novelist known as George Sand ended

sadly, and Chopin's spirits and his health declined with the relationship. He died at the tragically young age of thirty-nine from tuberculosis – a major killer at the time. Imagine how many more wonderful pieces he could have written had he lived an average lifespan!



**Sergei Rachmaninoff** (1873–1943) was one of the most important pianists of the twentieth century. He could play very complicated music on just one hearing. This was perhaps helped by the size of his hands – he could reach the interval of a sixteenth, which is the hand-span of about 15 inches! Rachmaninoff was also a conductor and composer. Like Mendelssohn, he came from a wealthy background where music was encouraged. His reputation as a composer, however, has not always been so strong. In the 1950s his music was labelled by some critics as 'monotonous' – they even predicted that it wouldn't stand the test of time!



**John Williams** (born in 1932) is the most successful living composer of film music. Today he lives in Hollywood. As of 2006, he has received an incredible 45 Academy Award nominations. Williams has not always been a composer for films. Between 1952 and 1954 he conducted and arranged music for United States Air Force bands. He also worked as a jazz pianist. But when he was discharged from the Air Force he returned to New York, where he attended the prestigious Juilliard School – one of the best performing arts conservatories in the world. Williams also composed concert works, but he is undoubtedly most famous for his film scores, which include such well-known tunes such as the ‘Harry Potter’ theme.

Throughout the story of these Famous Composers, spanning 300 years, we see how the purpose of composition can be very varied. Starting in the eighteenth century, we find Handel composing music for royal

occasions. By the time we reach the twenty-first century, with John Williams, music is being composed for films. So classical music fulfils many functions besides concert-hall entertainment, and composers are able to adapt their skills to these different needs.

### **Notes by Katherine Walters**



**Darren Henley** is the Station Manager of Classic FM. His radio programmes have been honoured by the Sony Radio Academy Awards, the British Radio Awards, the New York International Radio Festival and the United Nations. He writes regularly for Classic FM Magazine. Previously a journalist for ITN and Invicta Radio in Kent, he is the co-author of autobiographies of Aled Jones and of the band G4, both published by Virgin Books, and of four books about classical music published by Boosey & Hawkes. His first Naxos audiobook, *The Story of Classical Music*, which was also narrated by

Marin Alsop, was nominated for a Grammy Award and named as best original work by the Audiobook Publishers Association in the USA in 2005.





**Marin Alsop** is one of the leading American conductors, criss-crossing continents to perform with orchestras in the US, Europe and Asia. Born in New York, the daughter of two professional musicians, she went to the Juilliard School as a violinist. But she soon took up conducting, forming her own orchestra and arranging concerts. She won the Stokowski competition and the Koussevitzky Prize at Tanglewood, where she was a pupil of Leonard Bernstein, Seiji Ozawa and Gustav Meier.

She has conducted many of the key orchestras, including the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, the New York Philharmonic and the Philadelphia Orchestra. She has had a long association with the Colorado Symphony, first as musical director and then as music director laureate.

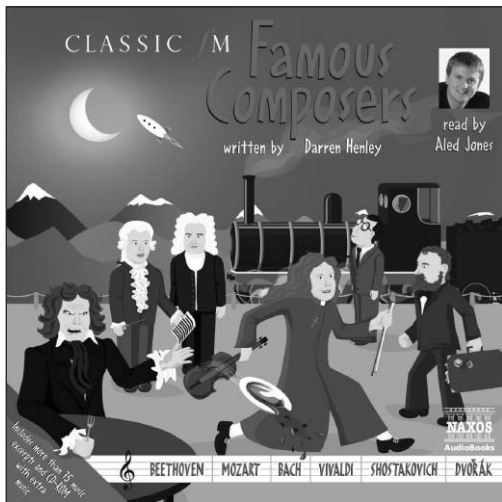
In 2002 she became principal conductor of the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, though she also conducts other UK orchestras, including the London Philharmonic Orchestra. Marin Alsop made history when she was chosen as the new music director for the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra. She is the first woman conductor of a major American orchestra.

She has recorded a well-regarded cycle of Barber's orchestral works for Naxos as well as a Brahms symphony cycle and music by Adams, Glass, Weill and Bartók. She has also narrated *The Story of Classical Music* for Naxos AudioBooks. In 2003 she won both the Gramophone Artist of the Year award and the Royal Philharmonic Society's conducting award, and in 2005 she received the prestigious Classical Brit award for Female Artist of the Year.

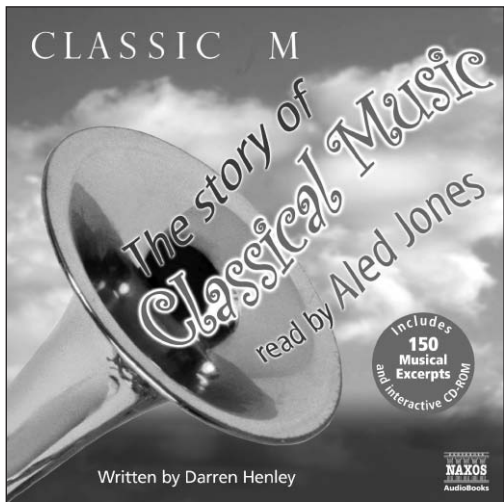
Marin enjoys introducing all her concerts and talking about music – she features regularly as a speaker on radio in the UK and US.

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## Other Junior Classics on Naxos AudioBooks



**Famous Composers**  
(Henley)  
read by Aled Jones  
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(Henley)

read by Aled Jones

ISBN: 9789626343142

Darren Henley

# MORE FAMOUS COMPOSERS

Read by **Marin Alsop**



**Marin Alsop** presents six of the most important composers in Western music. Their music and their lives were very different: **Handel** was gruff but wrote the Hallelujah Chorus; **Haydn** was cheerful, **Mendelssohn** was a remarkable talent, **Chopin** was devoted to the piano, **Rachmaninov** was deeply Russian and **John Williams** is the most successful film composer of our time with Harry Potter, Jaws and Star Wars among his works.

Though they lived at very different times, they have all known what it was like to sit in a silent room with a pile of blank manuscript paper in front of them and compose symphonies, concertos and big choral works as well as songs and sonatas. As we hum their tunes and thrill to their sounds, it can only seem something of a miracle.

Who better to tell their stories than the award-winning conductor **Marin Alsop** who likes nothing better than to stand in front of a large symphony orchestra, her baton raised – and bring their music to life!

This is the second volume of **Darren Henley's** engaging composer portraits for younger listeners: **Famous Composers** (Bach, Vivaldi, Beethoven, Dvorak, Mozart, and Shostakovich) won the 2006 Audie Award for Best Original work.

CD ISBN:

978-962-634-422-4

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Produced by Nicolaas Soames  
Recorded at Motivation Sound Studios, London  
Edited by Sarah Butcher  
Cover picture by Hannah Davies

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2:16:52