

NAXOS
AudioBooks

**CLASSIC
FICTION**

Sir Walter Scott **Ivanhoe**

Read by **Jonathan Oliver**



NA289412D

1	In a forest glade	4:44
2	Brian de Bois-Guilbert – Knight Templar	7:35
3	Rotherwood – the home of Cedric the Saxon	7:39
4	The Pilgrim confronts Guilbert	5:49
5	A warning for Isaac	5:37
6	King John at Ashby-de-la-Zouche	6:02
7	The joust begins	3:56
8	The Disinherited Knight appears	5:25
9	The Disinherited Knight takes on all comers	5:19
10	Battle – The joust's second day	7:28
11	The champion of the day	3:33
12	The consequences of the joust	7:02
13	Locksley, the yeoman	6:22
14	Imprisoned in the castle of Front-de-Boef	2:24

15	Isaac learns of Rebecca's fate	5:32
16	The old sybil, Ulrica	6:36
17	Wamba's brave offer	7:00
18	Rebecca tends Ivanhoe	5:23
19	Ulrica faces Front-de-Boef	5:11
20	De Bracy meets the Black Knight	7:02
21	Back in Sherwood Forest	5:02
22	Isaac's anguish	6:52
23	Templestowe – The Grand Master	4:27
24	Rebecca hopes for a champion	4:40
25	Identities revealed	4:27
26	Execution – or a saviour?	6:28
27	Fiat voluntas tua	3:57
28	Nuptials and a leave-taking	6:38

Total time: 2:38:39

Sir Walter Scott

Ivanhoe

Sir Walter Scott (1771–1832) is probably best remembered as a writer of fast-paced novels of chivalry and romance, the essence of which is distilled so successfully in *Ivanhoe*.

Scott was born in Edinburgh, the youngest of thirteen children and, following in his father's footsteps, was called to the bar in 1792. He became Sheriff-Depute of Selkirkshire in 1799, and was Clerk of the Court of Session in Edinburgh from 1806 to within a couple of years of his death.

Scott's mother instilled in him her own love of poetry and, although he was left lame after a childhood illness, Scott enjoyed exploring the Border countryside. So it is no wonder that the first work to appear under his own name was *The Minstrelsy of the Scottish Border*. *The Lady of the Lake* and *Harold the Dauntless* are among his most famous poems.

The first nine novels Scott published

drew on recent Scottish history. He began the *Waverley* novels in 1805, but put them aside and produced more marketable work until 1814 when *Waverley* appeared. Among his most famous novels are *Old Mortality* (1816) and *The Heart of Midlothian* (1818).

But with the publication of *Ivanhoe* in 1819, Scott began to mine the rich seam of historical romance and chivalry that would make him famous far beyond Scotland.

Scott was a leading figure in the literary establishment of his day, writing and editing seminal historical works. In 1813 he refused the title of Poet Laureate, but he did accept a baronetcy in 1820.

From 1811 Scott lived the life of a landed squire at the large estate of Abbotsford, near Melrose, in the Scottish borders. But he spent vast sums of money on restoring the house which he referred

to as 'Conundrum Castle – this romance of a house'. He was left with huge debts – about £114,000 – when a company in which he had heavily invested, as a sleeping partner, collapsed. Scott shouldered the burden of debt himself, and his amazingly prolific output was all aimed at paying off the creditors. They were, indeed, paid off from the proceeds of the sale of his copyrights after his death.

Scott had the capacity, time and time again, to capture the spirit of a time and to portray it with colour, drama and immediacy. This is never better illustrated than in *Ivanhoe*, in which his command of historical detail gives another dimension to what is one of the greatest adventure stories of all time.

Notes by Lesley Young

**The music on this recording is taken from
the NAXOS catalogue**

- KALINNIKOV** TSAR BORIS / EPIC POEM / THE CEDAR & THE PALM 8.223135
Budapest Symphony Orchestra / Antal Jancsovics
- TANEYEV** SYMPHONIES NOS 2 AND 4 8.223196
Polish State Philharmonic Orchestra (Katowice) / Stephen Gunzenhauser



Jonathan Oliver has appeared in theatre throughout the UK in works ranging from *Julius Caesar* (English Shakespeare Company) to Bulgakov's *The Master and Margarita*. Widely experienced in television, film and radio, he has, for a decade, also recorded audiobooks for the Royal National Institute for the Blind. He performed the role of The Daemon in Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* for Naxos AudioBooks.

Credits

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Courtesy of the Bridgeman Art Library

Sir Walter Scott

Ivanhoe

Read by **Jonathan Oliver**

Ivanhoe has never been superseded as the epitome of chivalric novels. The brave knight comes from the Crusades to claim the Anglo-Saxon princess Rowena as his bride. But he becomes caught up in the feud between Prince John and his brother, Richard the Lionheart, who has returned to England incognito. Robin Hood and his outlaws also appear in a story with many interconnecting strands which meet in powerful scenes of tournaments, sieges and courtly love.



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Produced
by Nicolas
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