

NAXOS
AudioBooks

CLASSIC
FICTION

Alexandre Dumas
The Three Musketeers

Read by **Bill Homewood**



NA308912D

1	The three gifts of M. D'Artagnan the Elder	6:38
2	M de Tréville, Captain of the Musketeers of Louis XIII	10:19
3	His Majesty, King Louis XIII	14:20
4	Monsieur Bonacieux and Armand Jean Duplessis, Cardinal Richelieu	3:42
5	Men of the robe and men of the sword	12:40
6	D'Artagnan places his foot on English land	4:28
7	The famous 'La Merlaison'	10:37
8	The Pavilion	4:31
9	D'Artagnan goes in search of his three companions	8:36
10	Drinking with Athos – and a fleur-de-lys	7:11
11	Hunting for the equipment	12:34
12	The charms of Kitty – and a deception	8:24
13	All cats are grey in the dark	7:36
14	Back in Milady's chamber	10:10

15	A vision	6:05
16	The Siege of La Rochelle	5:43
17	Athos eavesdrops	11:17
18	A revenge is planned	8:33
19	Milady arrives in England	9:48
20	Milady guarded by John Felton	14:57
21	A tap at the window – escape	10:36
22	In France	3:22
23	The Carmelite convent at Bethune	8:15
24	Milady takes her revenge	10:12
25	Athos takes charge of the pursuit	6:11
26	'I accuse this woman...'	11:16
27	The Cardinal's Messenger	4:49

Total time: 3:53:05

Alexandre Dumas

The Three Musketeers

In **The Three Musketeers** we follow the heroic adventures of the handsome young Gascon D'Artagnan, whose life is changed irrevocably when he moves to Paris in 1626 and throws in his lot with the dauntless musketeers Athos, Aramis and Porthos.

Like D'Artagnan, we are soon drawn to the three heroes. We are amused by the gentle Aramis, a man of poetical mind but few words, whose mysterious romances are arranged by the exchange of embroidered handkerchiefs and perfumed letters, but whose avowed intention is to take holy orders. We laugh aloud at the vainglorious and comical Porthos, whose greatest pleasure is to parade his most exotic clothes in the streets of Paris, but who, for the means to afford such finery, depends on his wealthy mistress. We share D'Artagnan's respect for the authority of his mentor, the aristocratic Athos, whose control only slips occasionally when a good glass of Spanish wine is to hand, and who is touched personally by some of the most dramatic twists to the plot.

Despite their idiosyncrasies these three

are fearless soldiers, and are happy to adopt the brave young D'Artagnan as their comrade. He soon earns their respect as a swordsman and it is not long before he, too, is wearing the much-prized uniform of a Musketeer.

"The Four" become embroiled in the furious rivalry between King Louis XIII and the sly Cardinal Richelieu. Their swashbuckling interventions in the romantic affairs of the Royal household actually affect the outcome of the bloody struggle for supremacy between England and France, culminating in the Siege of La Rochelle. Only their quick thinking and skill with the sword save them time and again from the sinister schemes of Richelieu and his friend, the beautiful and dangerous Milady Clarik. The tale sweeps inexorably towards the final chapters of the book, when, in scenes as thrilling as they are horrifying, revenges are taken and justice is seen to be done.

"The Four" continue their valorous adventures in **The Man in the Iron Mask**.

Alexandre Dumas wrote or collaborated on nearly 100 plays and many novels,

including **The Three Musketeers**, **The Man in the Iron Mask** and **The Count of Monte Cristo**. He was born in 1802, the son of a general in Napoleon's army and the grandson of a French Marquis and a Saint Domingo negress. As a child he lived through the upheavals of the Napoleonic Revolution and the subsequent restoration of the monarchy of France. He received his private education from a priest (like Monte Cristo). He was politically active and, though he is thought to have rather embellished the actions in his Mémoires, was involved heroically in skirmishes during the 1830 revolution. He was the father of author Alexandre Dumas (fils), most famous for his **The Lady of the Camellias**. Alexandre

Dumas (père) ran his career as an industry. It is thought that he would sketch the outline of a story to an assistant who would write it up; then Dumas himself would take the story by the throat and wrestle it into a masterpiece. He was a generous, idiosyncratic and fun-loving man who cooked brilliantly, gave a lot of money to cadgers and hangers-on, and spent prodigiously on his private life, most notoriously on various highly-publicised affairs and the construction of a monstrous folly of a house at Saint-Germain-en-Laye.

He died, just solvent, in 1870.

Notes by Bill Homewood

Cover picture: A Good Vintage by Francesco Vinea (1845-1902)
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**The music on this recording is taken from
the MARCO POLO catalogue**

BRUCH SUITE ON RUSSIAN THEMES/SYMPHONY NO 3 Hungarian Symphony Orchestra, Manfred Honeck	8.223104
RAFF SYMPHONY NO 8-9 CSSR Philharmonic, Urs Schneider	8.223362
RAFF SYMPHONY NO 1 Rhenish Philharmonic Orchestra, Samuel Friedman	8.223165
RAFF SYMPHONY NO 5 Slovak State Symphony Orchestra, Urs Schneider	8.223455

Alexandre Dumas

The Three Musketeers

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In **The Three Musketeers**, one of the greatest adventure stories ever written, we follow the fortunes of the dashing young swordsman D'Artagnan and his daredevil companions Athos, Aramis and Porthos. As the thrilling story unfolds, "The Four" find themselves embroiled in duels, love-tangles and sinister intrigues which threaten the future of King, Queen and France herself.



Bill Homewood is well-known for his innumerable television shows and leading credits in the West End, major theatres and the RSC. He has also directed theatre on both sides of the Atlantic, and his various writing credits include *Theatrical Letters*, published by Marginalia. His other recordings for Naxos AudioBooks include *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, *The Count of Monte Cristo* and the sequel to *The Three Musketeers*: *The Man in the Iron Mask*.

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