

Joseph Merk was the most outstanding cellist in Vienna in the first half of the nineteenth century. Although Beethoven's *Triple Concerto* was not originally written for him, Merk's performances established it as an important work, and he was the dedicatee of Chopin's *Introduction et Polonaise brillante*. He was also a formidable composer for his own instrument, creating a dazzling series of instrumental episodes in his *Fleurs d'Italie*, based on operatic motifs by Donizetti and Verdi. The *Valses brillantes* bridge the gap, in classic virtuoso fashion, between Schubert's piano dances and Johann Strauss the Elder's grand gestures.

Joseph  
**MERK**  
(1795–1852)



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|----------|---|--------------|
| <b>1</b> | <b>Air suisse varié et Rondeau, Op. 32</b><br>(Aux amateurs, No. 8)                   | <b>11:01</b> |
|          | <b>Fleurs d'Italie – Fantaisies sur les Motifs les plus favoris d'Opéras nouveaux</b> | <b>56:47</b> |
| <b>2</b> | <b>I. Lucrezia Borgia (Donizetti), Op. 26 No. 1</b>                                   | <b>10:31</b> |
| <b>3</b> | <b>II. Lucia di Lammermoor (Donizetti), Op. 26 No. 2</b>                              | <b>12:48</b> |
| <b>4</b> | <b>III. Torquato Tasso (Donizetti), Op. 26 No. 3</b>                                  | <b>11:09</b> |
| <b>5</b> | <b>IV. Dom Sébastien (Donizetti), Op. 26 No. 4</b>                                    | <b>10:31</b> |
| <b>6</b> | <b>V. Ernani (Verdi), Op. 31</b>  | <b>11:48</b> |
| <b>7</b> | <b>Valses brillantes, Op. 6</b>   | <b>8:02</b>  |

**Martin Rummel, Cello**  
**Roland Krüger, Piano**

Recorded at Schloss Weinberg, Kefermarkt, Austria, 12–13 September 2011  
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(collection of Martin Rummel; repro: Marlene Fröhlich)

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Playing Time  
75:51



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