



cpo 555 752-2 , 1 CD
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Mel Bonis

Orchestral Works

Lydia Teuscher, Soprano

Julie Robard-Gendre, Mezzosoprano

Women of the WDR Rundfunkchor WDR Symphony Orchestra • Joseph Bastian, Conductor

She was a great musical talent and a sensitive soul, the child of a socially aspiring family who forbid their daughter to marry the love of her life; instead, she was forced into a utilitarian marriage with a respectable husband but later had an affair with her first sweetheart after all - the stuff of a sentimental novel. Yet Mel Bonis (1858-1937) was no fictional character. She was one of the strongest composers of her time with a focus on piano, chamber music and art songs. She also enriched the repertoire of impressionism with numerous original gems and arrangements for orchestra. Her particularly modern Ophélie, her purring mélodie of an enamoured tomcat on a roof at night, her Spanish gypsy waltz and her dances for orchestra are just some of the enchanting discoveries you will find here. Our recording pays a well-deserved tribute to this noble woman.