

FINANCIAL TIMES

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FÉLICIEN DAVID

Félicien David: Christophe Colomb — ‘elegantly-turned songs’

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Richard Fairman

Félicien David Christophe Colomb Les Siècles (Palazzetto Bru Zane) Seduced by the Saint-Simonians, an early “utopian socialist” movement, and then a traveller to the Middle East, Félicien David absorbed some far-flung influences as a young man. Back in France, he became a prominent composer, praised by Berlioz. This luxury package of three discs and booklet gives a rounded survey of David’s now neglected output. The main work is the innovative, part-spoken “ode-symphonie” Christophe Colomb. The Symphony No.3 is faceless, but the elegantly-turned songs and chamber music, all in fine performances, should win friends. ★★☆☆☆