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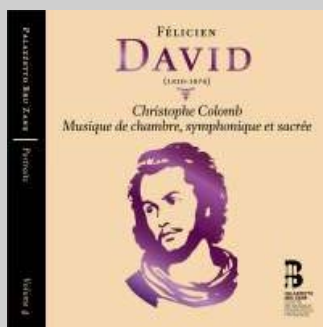
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Each volume in the 'Portraits' series is devoted to a French composer who has now largely been forgotten. With performances by many talented artists, it presents a panorama of his works. The 'Portrait' of Félicien David aims to complement the discography already available with world premiere recordings of the composer's works.

Among these are a glimpse of his orchestral output, with the Symphony no. 3 and the Overture to his opéra comique *La Perle du Brésil*, the work that really launched David on his operatic career. But it is above all *Christophe Colomb* (1847) that deserves mention, for this ode-symphonie with speaker was an ambitious follow-up to the success of *Le Désert*, performed at the Théâtre Italien some years earlier. Nevertheless, this anthology does not forget that Félicien David was also a figure of the salons, admired for his intimate music and especially his songs. The programme therefore offers a chance to

discover excerpts from the *Mémoires orientales* for solo piano, a selection of romances in the style of the 1840s, and the very rare early motets for chorus in varied scorings. The culmination of this Portrait is the restoration of *Le Jugement dernier*, which was intended as the concluding apotheosis of the opera *Herculanum*, but was finally deleted and has never been published until today.