

Born in Warsaw in 1901, Simon Laks started a promising career in Paris at the end of the twenties, which came to an abrupt end with the outbreak of World War II. Deported to the Auschwitz extermination camp in 1942, Laks escaped the Shoah, becoming a member and later the director of one of the camp's men's orchestras. This portrait CD assembles recordings of pieces of the pre-war period which marked his breakthrough. The Cello Sonata was written for Maurice Maréchal, the most famous French cellist of the time, who premiered it with Ravel specialist Vlado Perlemuter. Gérard Hekking, former solo cellist of the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, performed the *Trois pièces de concert*, also published in a version for violin, which vanished during the war and which was reconstructed especially for this recording by Judith Ingolfsson. Dedicated to Karol Szymanowski, aside from Ravel the most important model for the composer, the *Suite polonaise* displays a wonderful blend of Slavic and Romanic characteristics.

1. - 3. **Trois pièces de concert*** (1935)
4. - 6. **Sonate pour violoncelle et piano** (1932)
7. - 9. **Suite polonaise*** (1935)
10. **Ballade "Hommage à Chopin"*** (1949)

*World premiere recordings



Judith Ingolfsson



Leonid Gorokhov



Vladimir Stoupe



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