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TOUREL: A Vocal Portrait

NAXOS Historical

MADE IN E.C.



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ADD

Jennie Tourel

A Vocal Portrait

Recorded 1945-1952

Playing Time  
74:49

NAXOS Historical

TOUREL: A Vocal Portrait

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- 1 HAYDN: The Mermaid's Song  
[Now the dancing sunbeams play]
- 2 HAYDN: A Pastoral Song  
[My mother bids me bind my hair]
- 3 ROSSINI: *Semiramide*: Bel raggio lusinghier
- 4 ROSSINI: *Il barbiere di Siviglia* : Una voce poco fa
- 5 CHOPIN: *Zyczenie* [The Maiden's Wish]
- 6 CHOPIN: *Moja pieszczota* [My Joys]
- 7 CHOPIN: *Niema czego trzeba* [Melancholy]
- 8 BIZET: *Carmen*: Habanera
- 9 BIZET: *Carmen*: Séguidille
- 10 BIZET: *Adieu de l'hôtesse arabe* Op 21, No.4
- 11 CHABRIER: *Romance de l'étoile*
- 12 FAURÉ: *Trois poèmes d'un jour*, Op. 21:  
a) *Rencontre* b) *Toujours* c) *Adieu*
- 13 RAVEL: *Vocalise en forme de Habanera*
- 14 HAHN: *Si mes vers avaient des ailes*
- 15 MUSSORGSKY: *Serenade*
- 16 MUSSORGSKY: *Field-Marshal Death*
- 17 RACHMANINOV: *O Cease thy Singing, Maiden Fair*,  
Op. 4, No. 4
- 18 RACHMANINOV: *In the Silence of the Night*,  
Op. 4, No. 3
- 19 RACHMANINOV: *Floods of Spring*, Op. 14, No. 4
- 20 PROKOFIEV: *Alexander Nevsky*: *Field of the Dead*

Born Jennie Davidovich around 1900 in Belorussia, Tourel gave several differing accounts of her early years. She settled in Paris where she collaborated with the Venezuelan composer Reynaldo Hahn and became a member of the Opéra-Comique. Her rôles include Mignon, Cherubino and Carmen, which she performed over 200 times. The onset of the War saw Tourel move to New York and become a member of the Metropolitan Opera where she performed in *Norma* and *The Barber of Seville*. In America, she took part in the première of Bernstein's *I Hate Music* and *Jeremiah Symphony* and was the soloist in the American première of Prokofiev's cantata *Alexander Nevsky*. After her retirement in 1950, she created the rôle of Baba the Turk in Stravinsky's *The Rake's Progress* at La Fenice, Venice in 1951. Jennie Tourel died in New York in 1973.

Producer and Audio Restoration Engineer: Ward Marston  
Special thanks to Gregor Benko, Raymond Edwards and Lawrence F. Holdridge

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A complete track list can be found in the booklet  
Cover image: Jennie Tourel as Carmen (Lebrecht Collection)

