

NAXOS Historical

LEONCAVALLO: Pagliacci

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Ruggiero LEONCAVALLO (1858 – 1919) Pagliacci

Playing Time 72:45

Canio ..... Giuseppe Di Stefano
Nedda ..... Maria Callas
Tonio ..... Tito Gobbi
Silvio ..... Rolando Panerai
Beppe ..... Nicola Monti

Chorus and Orchestra of Teatro alla Scala, Milan
Vittore Veneziani, Chorus Master
Tullio Serafin
Recorded 12th-17th June, 1954
at Teatro alla Scala, Milan

Nedda in Leoncavallo's Pagliacci was one of four rôles Callas never sang in the theatre. In the November 1955 issue of Opera, Harold Rosenthal writes of this 1954 recording, "I think that Serafin has made this set into the definitive Pagliacci. The freshness of the music, which after all has become very hackneyed, is one of the joys of the set; another is the Nedda of Callas which is a most convincing characterisation. Her scene with Tonio is one of the most vivid pieces of operatic acting I can recall..." With a menacing Tonio from Tito Gobbi and characteristically uninhibited conducting from Tullio Serafin, the recording remains to this day one of the classics of the gramophone.

Table with 4 columns: Track number, Title, Duration, and Track number. Includes Prologue (7:48), Act I (39:21), Intermezzo (3:17), Act II (4:09), and La Commedia (18:10).

Reissue Producer and Restoration Engineer: Mark Obert-Thorn
Cover photo: Maria Callas at home in Milan, November 1955
(Gina Guandalini Collection, used with kind permission)
A libretto may be accessed at www.naxos.com/libretti

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