

Playing
Time
55:38

Beniamino Gigli

The Gigli Edition, Vol. 15

The 1955 Carnegie Hall Farewell Recitals

- 1 **MEYERBEER: L'Africaine:** Mi batte il cor ... O Paradiso!
- 2 **CACCINI:** Amarilli
- 3 **DONAUDY:** O del mio amato ben
- 4 **HANDEL: Serse:** Frondi tenere e belle ... Ombra mai fu
- 5 **MASSENET: Manon:** O dolce incanto ... Chiudo gli occhi
- 6 **WAGNER: Lohengrin:** Mercè, mercè, cigno gentil
- 7 **GRIEG: Un Rêve [En dröm]**
- 8 **CHOPIN:** Reviens, mon amour
(from Étude in E major, Op. 10, No. 3) [Tristesse]
- 9 **MASSENET: Werther:** Ah! Non mi ridestar
- 10 **GOMES: Lo Schiavo:** All'istante partir ...
Quando nascesti tu
- 11 **PUCCINI: Tosca:** E lucevan le stelle ... O dolci baci
- 12 **WECKERLIN:** Bergère légère
- 13 **MOZART: Don Giovanni:** Dalla sua pace
- 14 **CURCI:** Notte a Venezia
- 15 **CARNEVALI:** Come, love with me
- 16 **CURRAN:** Life
- 17 **DE CRESCENZO:** Rondine al nido
- 18 **DE CURTIS:** Addio bel sogno
- 19 **DI VEROLI:** Ritorna amore
- 20 **BIXIO:** Mamma
- 21 **DI CAPUA:** 'O sole mio
- 22 **PUCCINI: La fanciulla del West:**
Ch'ella mi creda libero e lontano

Dino Fedri, *Piano*

This final volume of the Naxos Gigli Edition, released to mark the fiftieth anniversary of the great tenor's death, is taken from his Carnegie Hall farewell concerts in April, 1955. Making their first appearance on CD here, these recordings demonstrate that Gigli remained to the end his old, communicative self, still able to pour an immense tranche of emotion into whatever he was singing. For a man his age the overall sound is still remarkable and the honeyed mezza-voce remains a delight, untouched by the passing years. As ever in a Gigli programme, operatic titles are intertwined with more popular material. By and large Gigli kept faith with those pieces he most enjoyed singing and that his public adored. 'It was only through my audiences that this exercise of lungs, diaphragm and vocal cords became transmuted for me into a profound spiritual experience. Like a squirrel counting his hoard of nuts in the winter, I treasure their applause in my memory.'



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THE EU



Producer and Audio Restoration Engineer: Mark Obert-Thorn • Special thanks to Maynard F. Bertolet for providing source material, and to Mark Ricaldone
A complete track list can be found in the booklet

Cover photo: Beniamino Gigli at Carnegie Hall, 1955 • Photo on page 2: Gigli as Enzo Grimaldo in his operatic début in La Gioconda on 15th October, 1914, at the Teatro Sociale, Rovigo, Italy
(from the Mark Ricaldone photographic collection)

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