

NAXOS Historical

VERDI: Aida

8.111240-41



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Giuseppe  
**VERDI**  
(1813-1901)  
**Aida**

Aida ..... Maria Callas  
Radamès ..... Richard Tucker  
Amneris ..... Fedora Barbieri  
Amonasro ..... Tito Gobbi  
The King of Egypt ..... Nicola Zaccaria  
Ramfis ..... Giuseppe Modesti

Orchestra and Chorus of La Scala, Milan  
Tullio Serafin

Recorded 10th-12th, 16th-20th, 23rd-24th August, 1955  
in the Teatro alla Scala, Milan

Although *Aida* was one of the rôles which Maria Callas sang most, especially in the early years of her career, it is generally agreed that she was better suited to singing *Norma*, *Violetta* and *Lucia*. Nevertheless, when this 1955 recording was first released, Harold Rosenthal for *Opera* wrote: "for dramatic intensity and moments of heart-rending pathos [it] can have few equals", while Dyneley Hussey enthused in the *Musical Times* that it was: "a great performance, splendidly recorded. Callas' dramatic power and her ability to shade the beautiful vocal line here find the best imaginable medium". In, for example, the opening phrases of the Act III love duet with Radamès, "*Là, tra foreste vergini*", her voice has a limpidity which enables her to accomplish miracles of pianissimo shadings, singing *dolcissimo* as the score directs – one of innumerable occasions in which Callas renders the subtlest markings in the score so effectively.

Reissue Producer and Restoration Engineer: Mark Obert-Thorn  
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Cover photo: Maria Callas (Private Collection)

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ADD

Playing  
Time  
2:26:07

CD 1 67:49

1-9 Prelude - Act I 39:29  
10-15 Act II - Beginning 28:20

CD 2 78:18

1-4 Act II - Conclusion 13:06  
5-11 Act III 32:39  
12-18 Act IV 32:33



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Callas • Tucker • Gobbi • Barbieri • Serafin

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