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2 CDs

Giacomo
PUCCINI
(1858-1924)

Madama Butterfly

ADD

Playing
Time
2:33:28

Madama Butterfly Toti Dal Monte
B.F. Pinkerton Beniamino Gigli
Suzuki Vittoria Palombini
Sharpless Mario Basiola
Goro Adelio Zagonara
Prince Yamadori Gino Conti
The Bonze Ernesto Dominici
Kate Pinkerton, Cho-Cho-San's relations and friends, Servants

Chorus and Orchestra of the Rome Opera House

Oliviero de Fabritiis, Conductor

Recorded on 32 sides by His Master's Voice

at the Royal Opera House, Rome, July 1939

on Matrices 2BA 3271-3300, 2BA 3314-15 Catalogue: DB 3859-74

This, the last recording of Puccini's tragic masterpiece to be made before the outbreak of the Second World War, is among the most moving of all pre-war opera recordings. Heading the cast is the Italian soprano Toti dal Monte, the 'First Lady' of La Scala throughout the 1920s and 1930s, whose *Butterfly* is almost heartbreakingly pure. Opposite her is the great Beniamino Gigli, in an immaculate performance as Pinkerton, this his only recorded outing as the irrepressive young lieutenant. A musically sumptuous experience, this classic *Madama Butterfly* is a reminder of the undimmed power of music at one of the century's darkest hours.

| CD 1 | 76:25 | CD 2 | 77:04 |
|-----------------------------|-------|---|-------|
| 1-13 Act I | 45:56 | 1-14 Act II (part 2) | 47:21 |
| 14-22 Act II (part1) | 30:29 | Appendix: | |
| | | 15-22 A selection of recordings by Toti Dal Monte | 29:42 |

Archivist & Restoration Producer: Ward Marston

Special thanks to Michael Gray, J. Richard Harris, Lawrence F. Holdridge
Andrew Karzas and Peter Lock

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A complete track list can be found on pages 3 and 4 of the booklet
Cover Image: Toti Dal Monte (Private Collection)

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