

ADD

Playing  
Time  
2:17:14

George  
**GERSHWIN**  
(1898-1937)

# Porgy and Bess

8.110219-20

2 CDs



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## CD 1 Original Cast Recordings 67:36

- 1-17** Members of the Original Cast 45:25  
with Eva Jessye Choir and Decca Symphony Orchestra  
conducted by Alexander Smallens (1940-1942)
- 18-25** Members of the Original Cast 22:11  
with Leo Reisman's Orchestra (1935-1942)

## CD 2 First Contemporary Recordings 69:38

- 1-9** Highlights from Porgy and Bess performed by 27:44  
Lawrence Tibbett and Helen Jepson
- 10-13** Selections from Porgy and Bess performed by 10:22  
Paul Robeson
- 14-19** Selections from Porgy and Bess arranged and 15:44  
performed by Jascha Heifetz
- 20** Porgy and Bess: A Symphonic Picture 15:48  
arranged by Robert Russell Bennett

This release presents a unique portrait of Gershwin's landmark folk opera, *Porgy and Bess*, and of the artists, including Lawrence Tibbett, Helen Jepson, Paul Robeson and Jascha Heifetz, who brought it to life. It brings together the recordings made during the first ten years after the opera's première. The first disc assembles the Decca and Brunswick recordings made between 1935 and 1942 with members of the original cast and orchestra. The second disc features the first contemporary recordings of the score, including perhaps the most intriguing non-vocal treatment of *Porgy and Bess*, by Jascha Heifetz. Concluding this collection is the first recording of Robert Russell Bennett's orchestral adaptation, *Porgy and Bess: A Symphonic Picture*, which has since become a standard in the orchestral 'pops' repertoire.

Archivist & Restoration Producer: David Lennick  
Digital Noise Reduction: Graham Newton

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A detailed track list can be found in the booklet  
Cover Image: Porgy and Bess Programme Cover, 1952 (Lebrecht Collection)

