



8.110259-60

2 CDs

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Vincenzo

BELLINI

(1801-1835)

I Puritani

ADD

Playing Time  
2:22:28

Elvira .....	Maria Callas
Arturo .....	Giuseppe Di Stefano
Riccardo .....	Rolando Panerai
Giorgio .....	Nicola Rossi-Lemeni
Bruno .....	Angelo Mercuriali
Gualtiero Valton .....	Carlo Forti
Enrichetta .....	Aurora Cattelan

Chorus and Orchestra of La Scala, Milan

Tullio Serafin

Chorus Master: Vittore Veneziani

Recorded March and April 1953

in the Basilica di Santa Eufemia, Milan

First issued as Columbia 33CX 1058 through 1060

CD 1		69:09	CD 2		73:19
[1]-[7]	Act I, Scene 1	22:06	[1]-[11]	Act II	41:30
[8]-[20]	Act I, Scene 2	47:03	[12]-[21]	Act III	31:49

Producer and Audio Restoration Engineer: Mark Obert-Thorn  
 Special thanks to Dr. Robert E. Seletsky and Maynard F. Bertolet

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A complete track list can be found in the booklet

Cover Image: A group of Puritans from Bellini's opera *I Puritani*

Lithographed cover by J. Brandard (Mary Evans Picture Library)

This historic recording of *I Puritani* is notable for many reasons: it was the first opera Maria Callas recorded with the forces of La Scala, during a period when the Milanese theatre was the scene of her greatest triumphs, and it marked the start of the rediscovery, on record, of the bel-canto repertoire. This was due partly to the development of the long-playing record, and partly to the totally new character which Callas brought to the operas of this repertoire with her smoky tone, vocal agility and dramatic intensity. The producer, Walter Legge, assembled a strong cast around his new *protégée*: Giuseppe Di Stefano, possessed of a beautiful, natural tenor voice, Nicola Rossi-Lemeni, a pre-eminent bass throughout the 1950s and the young Rolando Panerai, one of Italy's emerging talents.



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BELLINI: *I Puritani*