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MADE IN
CANADA

Beniamino Gigli

The Gigli Edition, Vol. 1

Milan Recordings 1918-1919

Playing
Time
67:34

- 1 **BOITO: Mefistofele:** Dai campi, dai prati
- 2 **PUCCINI: Tosca:** Recondita armonia
- 3 **PUCCINI: Tosca:** E lucevan le stelle
- 4 **BOITO: Mefistofele:** Se tu mi doni
- 5 **BOITO: Mefistofele:** Lontano, lontano
- 6 **DONIZETTI: La Favorita:** Addio, fuggir mi lascia
- 7 **PONCHIELLI: La Gioconda:**
Deh, non tremar... Laggiù nelle nebbie remote
- 8 **CANNIO: O surdato 'nnamurato**
- 9 **MASCAGNI: Lodoletta:**
Ah! ritrovarla nella sua capanna
- 10 **MASCAGNI: Iris:** Apri la tua finestra
- 11 **BOITO: Mefistofele:** Giunto sul passo estremo
- 12 **PONCHIELLI: La Gioconda:** Cielo e mar
- 13 **DONIZETTI: La Favorita:** Spirto gentil
- 14 **PONCHIELLI: La Gioconda:**
Enzo Grimaldo, Principe di Santafior
- 15 **GOUNOD: Faust:** Salve, dimora casta e pura
- 16 **GOUNOD: Faust:** Tardi si fa! addio!
- 17 **GOUNOD: Faust:** Sempre amar
- 18 **PUCCINI: La Bohème:** O soave fanciulla
- 19 **MASCAGNI: Cavalleria rusticana:**
Mamma, quel vino è generoso

The present volume is the first in a series devoted to Beniamino Gigli's "singles" - his song and aria recordings not issued as part of complete opera sets. The aim of the series is to include every Gigli recording released at the time, as well as every published alternate take and, wherever available, unpublished takes. For the golden-voiced Beniamino Gigli, 1918 was a golden year. Just 28, he was engaged by Toscanini to join La Scala and he was discovered by Fred Gaisberg, head of HMV in London, who contracted him to make his first recordings. Gaisberg described Gigli as the second Caruso except that he had greater flexibility. On the 1918-19 discs we hear the Gigli voice in its absolute prime, firm, sweet, flexible, clean in line with few of the maddening if endearing traits that affected him in later years. Arguably, Gigli's is the most sheerly beautiful and probably the most natural tenor voice in the history of the gramophone.

Producer and Audio Restoration Engineer: Mark Obert-Thorn
 Special thanks to Lawrence Holdridge, Barry Ashpole, Richard Bebb,
 Jim Peters and Mark Ricaldone • Previously released on Romophone

www.naxos.com

A complete track list can be found in the booklet
 Cover image: Beniamino Gigli as Faust in Boito's Mefistofele, 1920
 (from the Mark Ricaldone photograph collection of Beniamino Gigli)

