

ADD

Playing Time
2:36:45

George
GERSHWIN
(1898 - 1937)

Porgy and Bess

Porgy	Lawrence Winters
Bess	Camilla Williams
Serena	. Inez Matthews
Sporting Life	Avon Long
Crown	Warren Coleman
Clara	June McMechen
Maria / Lily / Strawberry Woman	Helen Dowdy
Jake	Eddie Matthews
Mingo	William A. Glover
Robbins	Irving Washington
Peter	Harrison Cattenhead
Frazier	J. Rosamond Johnson
Annie	Sadie McGill
Jim	George Fisher
Undertaker	Hubert Dilworth
Nelson / Crab Man	Ray Yeats
Mr. Archdale	Robert Carroll
Detective	George Matthews
Policeman / Coroner	Peter Van Zant

Orchestra and J. Rosamond Johnson Chorus • Lehman Engel
Recorded 1951 • First issued as Columbia OSL-162

At its first performance *Porgy and Bess* was called 'a folk opera', and since then a debate has been raging whether Gershwin's masterpiece is a musical comedy or an opera. The present recording, made in 1951 with a specially chosen team that was not specifically attached to a production of the show, is a canny compromise, combining the energy of musical comedy with the vocal richness of opera. There are trims and edits throughout, which considerably reduce the running time, but the important thing is that the piece, as an entity, is presented with its artistic integrity intact. The fillers feature two operatic stars in one of the earliest 'cross-over' recordings.

CD 1	77:36	CD 2	79:09
1-14 Act I	40:22	1-10 Act II (continued)	24:09
15-26 Act II	37:14	11-22 Act III	28:30
		23-30 Highlights from Porgy and Bess performed by Risë Stevens and Robert Merrill	26:30

Producer and Audio Restoration Engineer: Mark Obert-Thorn
Special thanks to Maynard F. Bertolet for providing source material

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A detailed artist and track list can be found in the booklet
Cover Image: Porgy and Bess programme cover (date unknown)
(Lebrecht Collection)



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DISC
DIGITAL AUDIO

8.110287-88

2 CDs

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GERSHWIN: Porgy and Bess

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