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2 CDs

George
GERSHWIN
(1898 - 1937)

Porgy and Bess

ADD

Playing
Time
2:36:45

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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	11-10 Act II (continued)	24:09
15-26 Act II	37:14	11-22 Act III	28:30
		23-30 Highlights from Porgy and Bess	26:30
		performed by Risé Stevens and Robert Merrill	

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

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