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ADD

Nellie Melba

The Complete American Recordings, Vol. 1

1907

 Playing
Time
69:39

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- 1 **VERDI: Rigoletto:** Caro nome
- 2 **PUCCINI: La bohème:** Sì, mi chiamano Mimì
- 3 **PUCCINI: La bohème:** O soave fanciulla *
- 4 **PUCCINI: Tosca:** Vissi d'arte
- 5 **GOUNOD: Faust:** Ah! Je ris de me voir si belle
[Air des bijoux]
- 6 **VERDI: La traviata:** Ah! fors' è lui... Sempre libera
- 7 **PUCCINI: La bohème:** Donde lieta uscì al tuo grido d'amore
- 8 **TOSTI:** Good-bye
- 9 **TOSTI:** La Serenata †
- 10 **BLANGINI:** Per valli, per boschi ‡
- 11 **BEMBERG:** Un ange est venu ‡
- 12 **HAHN:** Si mes vers avaient des ailes †
- 13 **MOZART: Le nozze di Figaro:** Voi che sapete
- 14 **THOMAS: Hamlet:** A vos jeux, mes amis,
permettez-moi de grâce [Mad Scene part 1]
- 15 **THOMAS: Hamlet:** Pâle et blonde, dort sous l'eau
profonde [Mad Scene part 2]
- 16 **ARDITI:** Se saran rose
- 17 **DONIZETTI: Lucia di Lammermoor:** Alfin son tua
[Mad Scene] °
- 18 **BISHOP:** Lo! Here the gentle lark °
- 19 **HANDEL: Il penseroso:** Sweet Bird °
- 20 **TOSTI:** Mattinata
* with Enrico Caruso, Tenor
† with Ada Sassoli, Harp
‡ with Charles Gilbert, Baritone
° with Charles K. North, Flute

Helen Porter Mitchell adopted the professional name, Melba, to acknowledge her Australian birthplace, Melbourne. In 1887 she made her operatic début in Brussels as Gilda, eventually winning acclaim at Covent Garden, the Metropolitan Opera and most of the leading opera houses of the world. This volume is the first of a series of three Naxos discs containing all the known recordings Melba made for the Victor Talking Machine in Camden, New Jersey, and New York. The 1907 recordings document some of Melba's greatest hits with audiences of the period. Although the voice is recorded somewhat distantly, there is a naturalness of sound which allows Melba's clean attacks, steadiness of tone and the bloom in her voice as it rises in a climactic phrase, to be heard without the edgy, strident quality that characterises some of the more powerful and brilliant recordings made after 1909.

MADE IN
THE EU

Producer and Audio Restoration Engineer: Ward Marston
Special thanks to Neil Forster, Harry Glaze, Lawrence Holdridge,
Peter Lack and Jim Peters • Previously released on Romophone

www.naxos.com

A complete track list can be found in the booklet
Cover image: Nellie Melba's début at the Théâtre de la Monnaie,
Brussels, 1887, as Gilda. (Lebrecht Music & Arts)

