

# Nellie Melba

## Complete Gramophone Company Recordings, Vol. 1

### The 1904 London Recordings

 Playing  
 Time  
**67:00**

Recorded March 1904 at Melba's residence,  
 30 Great Cumberland Place, Mayfair, London

- 1 **TOSTI:** Mattinata
- 2 **BEMBERG:** Nymphes et sylvains
- 3 **VERDI: La Traviata:** Ah! fors' è lui...
- 4 **VERDI: La Traviata:** Follie!...Sempre libera
- 5 **TRADITIONAL:** Comin' thro' the Rye
- 6 **ARDITI:** Se saran rose
- 7 **DONIZETTI:** Lucia di Lammermoor:  
 Del ciel demente un riso (from Mad Scene)
- 8 **HANDEL: II Penseroso:**  
 Sweet Bird That Shunn'st the Noise of Folly
- 9 **HANDEL: II Penseroso:**  
 Thee, Chauntress, Oft the Woods among I Woo
- 10 **TOSTI:** Goodbye
- 11 **THOMAS: Hamlet:**  
 A vos jeux, mes amis, permettez-moi de grâce
- 12 **THOMAS: Hamlet:** Et maintenant, écoutez ma chanson!
- 13 **VERDI: Rigoletto:** Caro nome che il mio cor
- 14 **VERDI: La Traviata:** Sempre libera
- 15 **D'HARDELOT:** Three Green Bonnets
- 16 **MOZART:** Le Nozze di Figaro: Porgi amor
- 17 **HAHN:** Si mes vers avaient des ailes
- 18 **PUCCINI: La Bohème:**  
 Donde lieta usci al tuo grido d'amore (Addio)
- 19 **Recorded 20 October 1904 at 21 City Road, London:**
- 20 **BEMBERG:** Chant Vénitien
- 21 **BEMBERG:** Les anges pleurent
- 22 **BACH / GOUNOD:** Ave Maria
- Appendix:
- 22 **HANDEL: II Penseroso:**  
 Sweet Bird That Shunn'st the Noise of Folly

Helen Porter Mitchell adopted the professional name Melba to acknowledge her birthplace, Melbourne. She began to study singing seriously in 1882 and made her operatic debut in Brussels in 1887. Melba won acclaim at Covent Garden and the Metropolitan Opera and subsequently in most of the leading opera houses of the world until her retirement, becoming the epitome of glamour and fame. Melba's voice was remarkable for its even quality over a range of nearly three octaves, and for its pure silvery timbre. Her first recordings were made in 1904 for The Gramophone and Typewriter Company, the precursor of HMV. The repertoire is drawn from Melba's major operatic roles in *La Traviata*, *Rigoletto* and *Lucia di Lammermoor*, as well as from the popular ballads and songs of the period, such as those by Tosti, and Bemberg, who can be heard accompanying Melba in two items composed by himself.

Producer and Audio Restoration Engineer: Ward Marston  
 Special thanks to Lawrence F. Holdridge and Jeffrey J. Miller.

[www.naxos.com](http://www.naxos.com)

A complete track list can be found in the booklet  
 Cover image: Nellie Melba as Violetta from *La Traviata*  
 (Lebrecht Collection)

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