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ADD

Franz
LEHÁR
 (1870 – 1948)

Das Land des Lächelns

(The Land of Smiles)

Playing
 Time
 2:32:24

Lisa Elisabeth Schwarzkopf
 Prince Sou-Chong Nicolai Gedda
 Gustl Erich Kunz
 Mi Emmy Loose
 Tschang Otakar Kraus
 Speaking parts:
 Fu-Li Felix Kent
 Servant André Mattoni

Philharmonia Orchestra and Chorus
 Otto Ackermann

Recorded 17th, 19th – 21st, April and 28th June 1953
 in Kingsway Hall, London

Generally considered the most important operetta composer of the first half of the twentieth century, Franz Lehár was not only a master of lush, infectious melodies but a skilled orchestrator whose musical language conveys a wide range of human emotions. Made in 1953, this was the first complete recording of *The Land of Smiles*, of which *The Gramophone* magazine wrote: "The principals all excel in sentiment. [Schwarzkopf offers] perfection of performance ... Loose is the ideal soubrette ... Gedda sounds young and caressing ... Kunz's charm ... and Kraus imparts the right touch of sternness". Principal among the many vocal highlights is the melting "Dein ist meines ganzes Herz" from Act II, ravishingly sung by Nicolai Gedda.

CD I	74:03	CD 2	78:21
1 Overture	8:40	1-6 Act III	12:02
2-16 Act I	28:03	7-22 Excerpts from Lehár's Operettas performed by Legendary Singers	66:19
17-32 Act II	37:20		

Reissue Producers and Restoration Engineers: Mark Obert-Thorn and Ward Marston
 Cover photo: Elisabeth Schwarzkopf (Tully Potter Collection)

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