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# Rosa Ponselle (1897-1981)

## American Recordings 1923-1929, Vol. 3

Playing  
Time  
75:18

- 1 VERDI: *Aida*: La fatal pietra <sup>1</sup>
- 2 VERDI: *Aida*: O terra addio <sup>1</sup>
- 3 SPONTINI: *La Vestale*: Tu che invoco
- 4 SPONTINI: *La Vestale*: O nume tutelar
- 5 SPONTINI: *La Vestale*: O nume tutelar \*
- 6 TOSTI: 'A vucchella 'Arietta di Posillipo'
- 7 TOSTI: *Luna d'estate*
- 8 MASSENET: *Élégie* <sup>2</sup>
- 9 MASSENET: *Élégie* <sup>2</sup>
- 10 GOUNOD: *Ave Maria* 'Meditation on J.S. Bach's Prelude in C' <sup>3</sup>
- 11 SCHUBERT: *Ständchen* \* <sup>4</sup>
- 12 VERDI: *Aida*: Ritorna vincitor \*
- 13 VERDI: *Aida*: O patria mia \*
- 14 RIMSKY-KORSAKOV: *The Nightingale and the Rose* <sup>5</sup>
- 15 TOSTI: *Serenade* <sup>6</sup>
- 16 TOSTI: *Good-bye*
- 17 KAHN: *Ave Maria*
- 18 VERDI: *Ernani*: Ernani! Ernani, involami \*

\* previously unpublished on 78rpm

<sup>1</sup> with Giovanni Martinelli, tenor and Elsie Baker, mezzo-soprano

<sup>2</sup> with Lennartz, cello

<sup>3</sup> with Alexander Schmidt, violin

<sup>4</sup> with Carmela Ponselle, mezzo-soprano

<sup>5</sup> with Clement Barone, flute

<sup>6</sup> with Francis Lapitino, harp

Described by Maria Callas as 'the greatest singer of us all', the American-born Rosa Ponselle (1897-1981) is acknowledged as one of the outstanding dramatic sopranos of the twentieth century. Without any previous experience of the operatic stage, she made her Metropolitan débüt in Verdi's *La forza del destino* opposite Caruso in 1918. Following her enormous success, she became the Metropolitan's leading soprano, appearing in twenty-one rôles throughout her career. This third disc of Ponselle's 1923-1929 American recordings features solo arias from the great Verdi operas, the complete 'Tomb Scene' from *Aida* and a number of songs that often appeared in Ponselle's recital programmes. Schubert's *Ständchen* is a composite of two takes unpublished on 78rpm found by a collector in Cincinnati.

MADE IN  
THE EU



Producer and Audio Restoration Engineer: Ward Marston  
Special thanks to Elayne Duke, Lawrence Holdridge, Peter Lack, Bill Park  
and David Terry

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A complete track list can be found in the booklet  
Cover image: Rosa Ponselle in *La Gioconda* (Private Collection)

