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ADD

Rosa Ponselle (1897-1981)

American Recordings 1923-1929, Vol. 3

Playing
Time
75:18

- 1 **VERDI: Aida:** La fatal pietra ¹
- 2 **VERDI: Aida:** O terra addio ¹
- 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** ²
- 9 **MASSENET: Élégie** ²
- 10 **GOUNOD: Ave Maria 'Meditation on J.S. Bach's Prelude in C'** ³
- 11 **SCHUBERT: Ständchen** * ⁴
- 12 **VERDI: Aida:** Ritorna vincitor *
- 13 **VERDI: Aida:** O patria mia *
- 14 **RIMSKY-KORSAKOV: The Nightingale and the Rose** ⁵
- 15 **TOSTI: Serenade** ⁶
- 16 **TOSTI: Good-bye**
- 17 **KAHN: Ave Maria**
- 18 **VERDI: Ernani: Ernani! Ernani, involami ***

* previously unpublished on 78rpm

¹ with Giovanni Martinelli, tenor and Elsie Baker, mezzo-soprano

² with Lennartz, cello

³ with Alexander Schmidt, violin

⁴ with Carmela Ponselle, mezzo-soprano

⁵ with Clement Barone, flute

⁶ 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 debut 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 Schubert's *Ständchen* is a composite of two takes unpublished on 78rpm found by a collector in Cincinnati.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)

