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Giuseppe
VERDI
 (1813-1901)

Aida

Aida Maria Callas
 Radamès Richard Tucker
 Amneris Fedora Barbieri
 Amonasro Tito Gobbi
 The King of Egypt Nicola Zaccaria
 Ramfis Giuseppe Modesti

Orchestra and Chorus of La Scala, Milan

Tullio Serafin

Recorded 10th-12th, 16th-20th, 23rd-24th August, 1955
 in the Teatro alla Scala, Milan

8.111240-41

ADD

Playing
 Time
 2:26:07

CD 1 67:49

1-9 Prelude - Act I 39:29
10-15 Act II - Beginning 28:20

CD 2 78:18

1-4 Act II - Conclusion 13:06
5-11 Act III 32:39
12-16 Act IV 32:33

Although Aida was one of the rôles which Maria Callas sang most, especially in the early years of her career, it is generally agreed that she was better suited to singing Norma, Violetta and Lucia. Nevertheless, when this 1955 recording was first released, Harold Rosenthal for *Opera* wrote: "for dramatic intensity and moments of heart-rending pathos [it] can have few equals", while Dyneley Hussey enthused in the *Musical Times* that it was: "a great performance, splendidly recorded. Callas' dramatic power and her ability to shade the beautiful vocal line here find the best imaginable medium". In, for example, the opening phrases of the Act III love duet with Radamès, 'Là, tra foreste vergini', her voice has a limpidity which enables her to accomplish miracles of pianissimo shadings, singing dolcissimo as the score directs – one of innumerable occasions in which Callas renders the subtlest markings in the score so effectively.

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