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NAXOS Historical De los Angeles • Björning • Merrill • Beecham 8.111249-50

Giacomo
PUCCINI
(1858-1924)

La Bohème

Mimi	Victoria de los Angeles
Rodolfo	Jussi Björling
Musetta	Lucine Amara
Marcello	Robert Merrill
Colline	Giorgio Tozzi
Schaunard	John Reardon

The Columbus Boychoir • RCA Victor Chorus and Orchestra

Sir Thomas Beecham

Recorded 16th, 17th and 30th March and 1st - 3rd, 5th
and 6th April, 1956 in Manhattan Center, New York City

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ADD

Playing
Time
2:21:12

CD 1	79:36
1-11 Act I	35:43
12-17 Act II	18:44
18-25 Act III	25:06
CD 2	61:36
1-10 Act IV	28:52
Appendices:	32:43
11 Beecham speaks about <i>La Bohème</i>	
12-22 Beecham conducts "Mimi's Farewell" and the complete Act 4 of <i>La Bohème</i> (1935-36 recordings)	

This release brings together for the first time Sir Thomas Beecham's prewar and postwar recordings of *La Bohème* as well as his spoken comments on the work, taken from a promotional LP issued at the time of the release of the complete recording. Beecham had known Puccini personally and had discussed *La Bohème* in great detail with him in London in the 1920s. Featuring Victoria de los Angeles and Jussi Björling in glorious form, the 1956 set ranks alongside the Callas *De Sabata Tosca* (Naxos 8.110256-57) as one of the greatest studio recordings of an opera ever made. When it was first released in the UK *The Gramophone* reviewer remarked that "Beecham's power of reviving music is indescribable.... One goes head over heels in love with the opera all over again".

Reissue Producer and Restoration Engineer: Mark Obert-Thorn
Cover photo: Victoria de los Angeles and Jussi Björling (Private Collection)



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PUCCINI: *La Bohème*

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