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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

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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8.111249-50

ADD

Playing
 Time
 2:21:12

CD I 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 *La Bohème*
 12-23 Beecham conducts "Mimi's Farewell"
 and the complete Act 4 of *La Bohème*
 (1935-36 recordings)

