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Playing Time
77:04

Henry
PURCELL
(1659 - 1695)

Dido and Aeneas

Dido	Kirsten Flagstad
Belinda	.....	Elisabeth Schwarzkopf
First Lady	.....	Eilidh McNab
Second Lady	.....	Elisabeth Schwarzkopf
Sorceress	.....	Arda Mandikian
First Witch	.....	Sheila Rex
Second Witch	.....	Anna Pollak
Attendant Spirit	.....	Elisabeth Schwarzkopf
Aeneas	.....	Thomas Hemsley
Sailor	.....	David Lloyd

The Mermaid Singers and Orchestra
Geraint Jones

Recorded 15th, 27th-28th March, 1952
in Abbey Road Studio No. 1, London

When this recording of *Dido and Aeneas* first appeared in January 1953 *The Gramophone* commented: "At last we have a really satisfactory recording of *Dido*". The reviewer found "Madame Flagstad in splendid voice and her tone is most perfectly controlled". Elisabeth Schwarzkopf was deemed "a vivacious Belinda", Arda Mandikian's Sorceress "sufficiently spiteful" and Thomas Hemsley "a dignified and slightly diffident Aeneas, but I imagine Dido gave him a strong inferiority complex". Geraint Jones, who enjoyed a highly successful career as an organist, harpsichordist, conductor and recording producer, was praised for his "musicianly playing and a lack of that lumpy rhythm that is fatal in Purcell's music".

1-12 Act I

18:12 28-38 Act III

21:45

13-27 Act II

18:44 39-41 Appendix: Flagstad sings Bach, Handel and Purcell 18:23

Reissue Producer and Restoration Engineer: Mark Obert-Thorn
Cover photo: Kirsten Flagstad
(Private Collection)



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