

Playing
Time
2:14:45

8.111276-77

ADD

MONO

CD 1 54:07

1-5 Prelude - Act I (Scene I) 16:09

6-14 Act I (Scene II) 37:58

CD 2 80:38

1-7 Act II 28:11

8-16 Act III 32:42

17-20 Appendix: 19:45

Robert Merrill sings
Verdi and Rossini arias

Giuseppe
VERDI
(1813-1901)

Rigoletto

Rigoletto Robert Merrill

Gilda Roberta Peters

Duke of Mantua Jussi Björling

Maddalena Anna Maria Rota

Sparafucile Giorgio Tozzi

Rome Opera Orchestra and Chorus
Jonel Perlea

Recorded 14th, 16th, 18th, 20th-22nd, 25th-26th
and 28th June, 1956
in the Opera House, Rome

When this 1956 recording of *Rigoletto* was first released in Britain, *The Gramophone* reviewer commented: "under Perlea, the orchestral playing is firm and dramatic, well balanced with the voice. The music is well paced. Björing's tone is a constant pleasure. He sings elegantly. Merrill, too, is in fine voice: he sings the title rôle in correct and often impressive style... in short, this performance with Metropolitan stars offers an able, and therefore enjoyable performance of the opera". Jussi Björing and Robert Merrill can also be heard together in Leoncavallo's *Pagliacci* (Naxos 8.110258) and Puccini's *Manon Lescaut* (Naxos 8.111030-31).

Reissue Producer and Restoration Engineer: Mark Obert-Thorn
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Cover photo: Jussi Björing and Robert Merrill (Private Collection)

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