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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

8.111276-77

ADD	MONO
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Playing  
Time  
2:14:45

CD 1	54:07
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[1-5] Prelude - Act I (Scene I)	16:09
[6-14] Act I (Scene II)	37:58

CD 2	80:38
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[1-7] Act II	28:11
[8-16] Act III	32:42

[17-20] Appendix: Robert Merrill sings Verdi and Rossini arias	19:45
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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. Björling'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 Björling 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 Björling and Robert Merrill (Private Collection)



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