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ADD

Playing
Time
2:12:02

CD 1	70:01
1 Prelude	4:19
2-21 Act I	46:52
22-27 Act II (beginning)	18:50

CD 2	62:01
1-5 Act II (conclusion)	12:46
6-24 Act III	49:15

Giuseppe
VERDI
(1813-1901)**Un ballo in maschera**

Riccardo	Giuseppe Di Stefano
Renato	Tito Gobbi
Amelia	Maria Callas
Ulrica	Fedora Barbieri
Oscar	Eugenia Ratti
Samuel	Silvio Maionica
Tom	Nicola Zaccaria

Chorus and Orchestra of La Scala, Milan
Antonino Votto
Recorded 4th-9th September, 1956
in the Teatro alla Scala, Milan

This 1956 recording of *Un ballo in maschera* was made before Maria Callas undertook it on stage. Of her performances of *Un ballo* at the beginning of the 1957/8 season at La Scala, Milan, the conductor Gianandrea Gavazzeni remembers '[how] she had this strange, burning, singular talent; she was always herself and yet always different in every rôle. A voice of more even quality could not have imparted the tension, or Amelia's desperation so effectively. Had she sought less wide a range, fewer colours then perhaps she might have achieved a more homogeneous sound, but she preferred richness of colour and play of lightness and shade in recreating the character.' Throughout the rôle Callas chooses an appropriate plangent vocal colour to characterize Amelia. In, for example, the Act II aria *Ecco l'orrido campo*, her singing shows the kind of detail redolent of her best work: the perfection of the repeated triplets, her shaping and control, and her inimitable way with the cadenza.

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



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