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Giuseppe VERDI (1813-1901)	8.111322-24	Playing Time 3:31:34
	ADD	
CD 1		75:58
1 Overture		7:29
2-7 Act I		17:27
8-22 Act II		51:02
CD 2		56:59
1-19 Act III		56:59
CD 3		78:37
1-6 Act IV		25:09
7-21 Verdi: La forza del destino • Highlights with Milanov, Peerce and Warren		53:28

Donna Leonora Maria Callas

Don Alvaro Richard Tucker

Don Carlo di Vargas Carlo Tagliabue

Preziosilla Elena Nicolai

Padre Guardiano Nicola Rossi-Lemeni

Fra Melitone Renato Cacchetti

Chorus and Orchestra of La Scala, Milan

Tullio Serafin

Recorded 17th-21st, 23rd-25th and 27th August, 1954

in the Teatro alla Scala, Milan

Although this 1954 recording of *La forza del destino* is not without flaws, Callas casts her Donna Leonora in the grand manner and her breath spans are of a truly notable length. She makes us conscious of every section of Leonora's music, setting off the first scene in Act I with fitting simplicity. In the Act III duet with Padre Guardiano, *Più tranquilla*, Callas shows her just rendition of note values; each of them is sung as Verdi specifies, contained within a perfect *legato* and yet she injects the subtlest *rubato* so giving it life. Under Serafin's inspired direction she sings the two famous arias, *Madre, pietosa vergine* and *Pace, pace mio Dio*, with appropriate grandeur, on a tragic scale, underlining Verdi's indications 'come un lamento' and 'con dolore'.

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