



Raffaello
DE BANFIELD
(1922–2008)

Lord Byron's Love Letter

The Old Woman Astrid Varnay
The Spinster (Ariadne) Gertrude Ribla
The Matron Nicoletta Carruba
The Husband Mario Carlin

Academy Symphony Orchestra of Rome

Nicola Rescigno

Recorded in Rome in 1958

8.111362

ADD

MONO

Playing
Time
66:36

Raffaello de Banfield

1-10 Lord Byron's Love Letter 50:51

Appendix

Gertrude Ribla in three scenes from
Berg's Wozzeck 15:45
11 Interlude, Military Music
and Cradle Song 5:41
12 Marie's Bible Reading 3:53
13 Death of Wozzeck and
Final Scene 6:11

The RCA Victor recording of Raffaello de Banfield's 1955 opera *Lord Byron's Love Letter* is a true rarity, remaining in their catalogue for only a short time and never reissued on CD before now. Based on a Tennessee Williams play set in late 19th-century New Orleans during the Mardi Gras, it revolves around an eccentric old lady, lost in the past, who displays to visitors an old love letter for money, purportedly by the rakish English poet. The opera was praised by *Time* magazine for its 'vocal beauty'.

Reissue Producer and Restoration Engineer: Mark Obert-Thorn
Special thanks to Maynard F. Bertolet and James Miller for providing source material
Cover photo: Astrid Varnay (Private Collection)
Publishers: Universal Music Publishing Ricordi (*Lord Byron's Love Letter*)
Universal Edition AG (*Wozzeck*)

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