



AMERICAN CLASSICS

Samuel Barber was almost 48 years old when his first opera, *Vanessa*, was produced by the Metropolitan Opera Company on 23rd January, 1958. Received with much acclaim the opera went on to win the 1958 Pulitzer Prize for music. The libretto, written by the composer's life-long friend Gian Carlo Menotti, tells of the love triangle between the heroine Vanessa, her niece Erika and the son of her former married lover Anatol. This tense, tragic scenario is fully reflected in Barber's music, with incredible passion and intensity throughout.

Booklet notes and synopsis in English  
Kommentar und Inhaltsangabe auf Deutsch  
Complete libretto in English

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# Samuel BARBER

(1910-1981)

## Vanessa

(An opera in three acts)

**Vanessa** ..... Ellen Chickering  
**Erika** ..... Andrea Matthews  
**The Old Baroness** ..... Marion Dry  
**Anatol** ..... Ray Bauwens  
**The Old Doctor** .... Richard Conrad  
**Nicholas** ..... Philip Lima

**National Symphony Orchestra of Ukraine**  
**Ukrainian National Capella "Dumka"**  
**Gil Rose**

**CD 1** **55:08**

**1-8 Act I, Scene 1** **26:30**

**9-16 Act I, Scene 2** **28:38**

**CD 2** **65:51**

**1-6 Act II** **21:41**

**7-14 Act III, Scene 1** **24:02**

**15-21 Act III, Scene 2** **20:08**

VANESSA

By Samuel Barber and Gian Carlo Menotti

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Recorded at the Concert Studio of Ukrainian Radio, Kiev, Ukraine,

from 25th May - 8th June 2002 • Producer: Blanton Alsbaugh

Engineers: John Newton, Dmitry Lipay and Mark Donahue

Booklet Notes: Richard Conrad

Cover Image: *Rosso* by Rossella Sidoni (used by kind permission)

American flag, folk artist, 1880s

Playing  
Time:  
2:00:59

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