

# Frances Alda

Born in New Zealand, Frances Alda (1883-1952) studied with Mathilde Marchesi in Paris where she made her operatic début in 1904. She appeared in Brussels, London and Milan, before making her début at the Metropolitan Opera in *Rigoletto* with Caruso in 1908. Alda became one of the foremost sopranos at the Met, and later married the company's director Giulio Gatti-Casazza. She began her illustrious recording career with the Victor Talking Machine Company in 1909 with the 'Miserere' from *Il trovatore*, a record, Caruso remarked, 'that is absolutely perfect'. This 2-CD set features Alda's complete Victor recordings from 1909-15, including selections from Massenet's *Manon*, Bizet's *Carmen*, Verdi's *Rigoletto*, *Il trovatore*, *Otello*, *Falstaff*, *I Lombardi* and Puccini's *Madama Butterfly*, *La bohème*, *Tosca* and *Manon Lescaut*. Also featured are four duets with the honey-toned Russian violinist Mischa Elman.

Total timing: 2 hrs 39 mins  
Transfers and audio restoration by Ward Marston

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