

# Giovanni Martinelli

Born near Padua, Giovanni Martinelli (1885-1969) studied with Mandolini in Milan before making his operatic debut as Ernani. He was invited by Puccini to sing the European première of *La fanciulla del West* in 1911, and made his Covent Garden debut the following year. Following his American debut in 1913, he joined the Metropolitan Opera where he remained for 30 years. His impeccable style, as well as remarkable legato and breath control, earned him the praise of his contemporaries: McCormack admired the 'fire and excitement' of his singing, and de Luca described his voice as 'golden in hue and so ingratiating in its warmth that it caressed the ear'. This 3-CD set of Martinelli's complete acoustic recordings presents the tenor in his youthful prime. It includes a wealth of operatic arias, as well as duets with Emmy Destinn, Geraldine Farrar, Frances Alda, Rosa Ponselle, Giuseppe de Luca, José Mardones and Marcel Journet.

Total timing: 3 hrs 38 mins

Transfers and audio restoration by Ward Marston

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