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ADD

Rosa Ponselle (1897-1981)

American Recordings 1923-1929, Vol. 4

Playing  
Time  
69:48

- 1 **VERDI: La forza del destino:** Pace, pace, mio Dio <sup>6</sup>
- 2 **VERDI: La forza del destino:** Pace, pace, mio Dio \* <sup>6</sup>
- 3 **VERDI: Ernani: Ernani! Ernani, involami** <sup>6</sup>
- 4 **DVOŘÁK: Songs My Mother Taught Me** <sup>6</sup>
- 5 **RUBINSTEIN: Since I First Met Thee** <sup>1 6</sup>
- 6 **VERDI: La forza del destino: Io muoio!** \* <sup>2 3 6</sup>
- 7 **VERDI: La forza del destino: Non imprecare, umiliati** \* <sup>2 3 6</sup>
- 8 **VERDI: La forza del destino: Io muoio!** <sup>2 3 6</sup>
- 9 **VERDI: La forza del destino: Non imprecare, umiliati** <sup>2 3 6</sup>
- 10 **VERDI: Aida: Ritorna vincitor** <sup>6</sup>
- 11 **VERDI: Il trovatore: Miserere** <sup>2 5 7</sup>
- 12 **VERDI: Il trovatore: Miserere** <sup>2 5 7</sup>
- 13 **VERDI: La forza del destino: La vergine degli angeli** <sup>3 5 7</sup>
- 14 **BELLINI: Norma: Casta diva: Sediziose voci** <sup>5 7</sup>
- 15 **BELLINI: Norma: Casta diva: Ah! bello a me ritorna** <sup>5 7</sup>
- 16 **BELLINI: Norma: Mira, o Norma** <sup>4 5 7</sup>

- \* previously unpublished on 78rpm
- <sup>1</sup> with Lennartz, cello
- <sup>2</sup> with Giovanni Martinelli, tenor
- <sup>3</sup> with Ezio Pinza, bass
- <sup>4</sup> with Marion Telva, contralto
- <sup>5</sup> with the Metropolitan Opera Chorus
- <sup>6</sup> with Orchestra conducted by Rosario Bourdon
- <sup>7</sup> with Orchestra conducted by Giulio Setti

Described by Maria Callas as 'the greatest singer of us all', the American-born Rosa Ponselle (1897-1981) is acknowledged as one of the outstanding dramatic sopranos of the twentieth century. Without any previous experience of the operatic stage, she made her Metropolitan début in Verdi's *La forza del destino* opposite Caruso in 1918. With the revival of Bellini's *Norma* in the Met's 1927-28 season Ponselle achieved perhaps the greatest triumph of her career. After the first performance on 16th November, Olin Downes, writing in *The New York Times*, remarked that the opera's success was due to Ponselle, 'probably the most beautiful voice of any soprano of her generation.' This fourth and final disc of Ponselle's 1923-1929 American recordings includes two sublime sets of takes of the *Trio Finale* from *La forza del destino* recorded with Giovanni Martinelli and Ezio Pinza in 1928. The 1929 *Norma* recordings are Ponselle's last commercial recordings before her retirement from the stage, and capture her voice in its prime.

Producer and Audio Restoration Engineer: Ward Marston

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A complete track list can be found in the booklet  
Cover image: Rosa Ponselle, New York, 1925 (Private Collection)

