

Playing
Time
2:10:01

8.111280-81

ADD

CD 1 68:02

1-9 Act I: The Duel 27:11

10-22 Act II: The Gypsy 40:51

CD 2 61:59

1-8 Act III: The Gypsy's Son 21:36

9-19 Act IV: The Ordeal 40:23

Giuseppe
VERDI
(1813-1901)

Il Trovatore

Manrico Giuseppe Di Stefano
Leonora Maria Callas
Count di Luna Rolando Panerai
Azucena Fedora Barbieri
Ferrando Nicola Zaccaria
Ruiz Renato Ercolani

Chorus and Orchestra of La Scala, Milan

Herbert von Karajan

Recorded 3rd, 4th, and 6th – 9th August, 1956

in the Teatro alla Scala, Milan

Before Maria Callas made this August 1956 recording of *Il Trovatore*, at La Scala, Milan, she had been singing it often since 1950 and with notable success. Her 1953 Covent Garden performances earned golden opinions. *The Times* critic considered the opera should have been styled *Leonora*: '[she] sang and acted everyone off the stage'... The beauty of her line, its plasticity, and its strength, and the easy richness with which she unfolds long phrases, was memorably shown in *Tacea la notte*. Throughout this recording Callas's singing of Leonora's music is superlative. In, for example, *D'amor sull'ali rosee* her delivery is so musically authoritative she shapes the long phrases with subtle use of *rubato* and perfectly drawn *portamenti*, each differently weighted according to the dynamics, the interval accomplished, and the speed of the music.

Reissue Producer and Restoration Engineer: Mark Obert-Thorn

Cover photo: Maria Callas (Private Collection)

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