

IMMORTAL PERFORMANCES

July 4, 2013

LUCERNE CONCERTS

Toscanini – La Scala

1946

As you may know, a new restoration approach has led the sound engineer to offer re-masterings of the 1935 *Missa Solemnis*, the 1938 Verdi *Requiem*, for example, and now our most recent re-master of Lucerne Concerts 1946. The improvements are not as substantive as those for the *Missa Solemnis* and the *Requiem* but they include reduction of sporadically metallic tone (example – the *Lohengrin* Prelude to Act III), and replacement of the barely audible passage of the Venusburg music of *Tannhäuser* with the corresponding passage from the La Scala Concert of 11 June 1946. The changes have, in certain portions, reduced a certain edgy atmosphere in the upper registers and enlarged the bottom end (*Meistersinger* Prelude). Overall, the re-mastering has produced better sound for the Lucerne concerts sufficient to offer it (gratis) to those who have previously purchased it.