

Magda Olivero



ADRIANA LECOUVREUR
San Carlo 1959

To us, Olivero is, like early Callas, one of the supreme vocal artists of the century. Olivero sang with great vocal beauty through her sixties, so astonishingly gripping in vocal range and dramatic insight as to be phenomenal in every way. Here, at last, is perhaps Olivero's greatest performance, in an edition which offers thrillingly clear, incisive, neutral sound of immense dramatic and musical impact, with Italian commentary re-creating the historic occasion. This set also includes a complete *Iris* by Mascagni from Turin, and a representative number of arias suggestive of the range of operas in which she sang, plus a bonus disc offering Puccini arias, and Act I and Act II excerpts and the complete Act III of *La Traviata* (Holland 1967.)

Texts by Stephen Hastings, author of *The Björling Sound*, other articles, photos, biographies, and Recording Notes. A unique celebration of one of the greatest vocal artists of the century.

This release is our long overdue homage to the sublime and incomparable Magda Olivero.

Jussi Björling



MANON LESCAUT
Stockholm, Royal Opera 1959

Writing about this performance, Stephen Hastings (*The Björling Sound*) states: "... this is possibly his finest performance of all; his voice is as finely produced as at the Met in 1956. And more translucent in texture."

We completely agree; this is best of a number superlative performances Björling gave in this opera (sung in Italian in a cast singing in Swedish) his singing is at an electrifying level. Celebrating his vocal art, we also include performances from the London Palladium, from the Hollywood Bowl, a Hospital Recital and from the last concert he gave prior to his death. These excerpts include the greatest *Nessun Dorma* Björling ever sang and Lenski's lament *Forbi, Forbi* from *Eugene Onegin* (from his last concert with Nils Grevillius) in which his tone and the words seem to presage his untimely death.

Booklet text by Stefan Johansson, former head of dramaturgy for the Royal Swedish Opera, along with other articles, all honouring one of the greatest tenors of the century.

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