

■ She is called "La Divina", the divine one, and anyone who loves opera appreciates the unconditional emotion and devotion with which Maria Callas loved and suffered on stage. The Callas was a high priestess of song and has set standards for a whole series of parts, not least the great Verdi roles from Rigoletto, Il trovatore, Un ballo in maschera, La forza del destino and Aida, in which she can be heard in this box set.

Maria Callas was an "Assoluta", a singer who could do justice to any and all roles. She has sung and performed more operas by Giuseppe Verdi, than by any other composer. It was a Verdi opera that confirmed her world fame at La Scala in Milan in 1951 – the legendary house of which she was to become the undisputed queen. One can only speak of a triumph that she experienced when her Elena was greeted with frenetic cheers in this passion-proven venue.

All of the legendary recordings on this exclusive box-set were made in La Scala.

CD 1 ■ VERDI Rigoletto – Opera in three acts

Libretto: Francesco Maria Piave (after / nach Victor Hugo's «Le Roi s'amuse»)

CD 2 ■ VERDI Rigoletto – Opera in three acts / continued

CD 3 ■ VERDI Il trovatore – Opera in four acts

Libretto: Salvatore Cammarano u. Leone Emanuele Bardare (after / nach Antonio García Gutiérrez)

CD 4 ■ VERDI Il trovatore – Opera in four acts / continued

CD 5 ■ VERDI Un ballo in maschera – Opera in three acts

Libretto: Antonio Somma (after / nach Eugène Scribe's «Gustave III ou Le bal masqué»)

CD 6 ■ VERDI Un ballo in maschera – Opera in three acts / continued

Libretto: Antonio Somma (after / nach Eugène Scribe's «Gustave III ou Le bal masqué»)

CD 7 ■ VERDI La Forza del destino – Opera in four acts

Libretto: Francesco Maria Piave

CD 8 ■ VERDI La Forza del destino – Opera in four acts / continued

CD 9 ■ VERDI La Forza del destino – Opera in four acts / continued

CD 10 ■ VERDI Aida – Opera in four Acts

Libretto: Antonio Ghislanzoni and Camille du Locle (after / Auguste Mariettes «La fiancée du Nil»)

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