

Anna Moffo – Sings Selected Arias From Her RCA Opera Recordings (2015)

Written by bluesever

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01 – Gluck: *Orfeo ed Euridice* – Highlights: *Qual vita è questa mai* 02 – Gluck: *Orfeo ed Euridice* – Highlights: *Che fiero momento!* 03 – Gluck: *Orfeo ed Euridice* – Highlights: *Avvezza al contento* 04 – Gluck: *Orfeo ed Euridice* – Highlights: *Che fiero momento!* 05 – Pergolesi: *La serva padrona*: *Stizzoso, mio stizzoso* 06 – Pergolesi: *La serva padrona*: *A Serpina penserete* 07 – Donizetti: *Donizetti: Lucia di Lammermoor* – Highlights: *Act I: Scene 2: Ancor non giunse!* 08 – Donizetti: *Lucia di Lammermoor* – Highlights: *Act I: Scene 2: Regnava nel silenzio* 09 – Donizetti: *Lucia di Lammermoor* – Highlights: *Act I: Scene 2: Quando, rapito in estasi* 10 – Donizetti: *Lucia di Lammermoor* – Highlights: *Act III: Scene 2: Eccola! – Il dolce suono* 11 – Donizetti: *Lucia di Lammermoor* – Highlights: *Act III: Scene 2: Ohimè! Sorge il tremendo fantasma* 12 – Donizetti: *Lucia di Lammermoor* – Highlights: *Act III: Scene 2: Ardon gl'incensi* 13 – Donizetti: *Lucia di Lammermoor* – Highlights: *Act III: Scene 2: S'avanza Enrico!* 14 – Donizetti: *Lucia di Lammermoor* – Highlights: *Act III: Scene 2: Spargi d'amaro pianto* 15 – Verdi: *Luisa Miller*: *Act I: Scene 1: Lo vidi, e'l primo palpito* 16 – Verdi: *Rigoletto*: *Act I: Gualtier Maldé, Caro nome* 17 – Verdi: *La Traviata* – Highlights: *Act I: E strano, è strano!; Ah, fors è lui* 18 – Verdi: *La Traviata* – Highlights: *Act I: Follie! Follie! Delirio vano* 19 – Verdi: *La Traviata* – Highlights: *Act I: Sempre libera* 20 – Verdi: *La Traviata* – Highlights: *Act III: Teneste la promessa* 21 – Verdi: *La Traviata* – Highlights: *Act III: Addio del passato* 22 – Puccini: *La Bohème*: *Si. Mi chiamano Mimi* 23 – Puccini: *La Rondine*: *Chi il bel sogno di Doretta*

One of the brightest stars in the 20th-century operatic firmament, the Pennsylvania-born soprano Anna Moffo (1932–2006) enjoyed a meteoric rise in the 1950s and 1960s that saw her conquer all the major opera houses in Europe and America. After making her Metropolitan Opera debut in 1959 as Violetta in *La traviata*, she went on to appear with the company in 200 performances of 21 roles over a total of 18 seasons, before finally singing her last complete performance – once again as Verdi's Violetta – and retiring from the stage in 1976. Specially released to mark the 10th anniversary of Anna Moffo's death (with booklet notes by Jürgen Kesting and full discographical details), Sony Classical's new limited edition 12-CD original jackets collection finally brings together the 10 recital albums that Moffo recorded for RCA between 1960 and 1974, four of them making their first appearance on CD, newly mastered from the original analogue tapes using 24bit/96kHz technology.

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Mostly dating from Moffo's youthful heyday in the early 1960s, these treasurable reissues include new remasterings of such jewels from her discography as her ravishing recording of Canteloube's Chants d'Auvergne (coupled with equally sensuous versions of Villa-Lobos's Bachianas brasileiras No. 5 and Rachmaninoff's Vocalise) under the direction of the legendary Leopold Stokowski and the fascinating double-album A Portrait of Manon, in which Moffo portrays the Abbé Prévost's seductively immoral heroine in contrasting scenes from Massenet's and Puccini's rival settings of the story.

Partnered there by the great Italian operatic tenors Giuseppe Di Stefano and Flaviano Labò, Moffo is also featured in two famous collaborations with the 1960s heart-throb tenor (later turned Las Vegas cabaret star) Sergio Franchi: The Dream Duet, an enticing selection of Broadway and operetta hits by Jerome Kern, Victor Herbert, Sigmund Romberg and others; and a starrily cast sequence of "great moments" from Johann Strauss's flirtatious Viennese comedy Die Fledermaus, sung in a delightfully period English translation.

Rounding off the collection are two compilation discs: an original 1973 album of Great Love Duets from Opera, featuring Moffo in tandem with such famous tenors as Richard Tucker, Carlo Bergonzi and Alfredo Kraus, and now newly extended to include five extra tracks by Verdi and Puccini; and a brand-new compilation of arias from Moffo's various complete RCA opera recordings, showcasing her in some of her most impressive roles: as Eurydice in Gluck's Orfeo ed Euridice, as Serpina in Pergolesi's La serva padrona, as an almost Callas-like heroine in Donizetti's Lucia di Lammermoor, as a notably warm-toned Gilda in Verdi's Rigoletto and, of course, as Violetta in La traviata, the signature role with which she had taken her leave of the stage in 1976. ---prestoclassical.co.uk

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