

Mirella Freni - Great Opera Divas (2000)

Written by bluesever

Monday, 15 November 2010 15:26 - Last Updated Friday, 12 September 2014 23:21

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CD1

01. Donizetti Don Pasquale Act 1. *Quel guardo il cavalier...So anch'io*
02. Donizetti L'elisir d'amore Act 1. *Chiedi all'aura lusinghiera*
03. Puccini Tosca Act 2. *Vissi d'arte Act 2. Un bel di vedremo* [play](#)
04. Puccini Madama Butterfly *Un bel di vedremo*
05. Puccini Madama Butterfly *Tu tu Piccolo iddio!*
06. Bizet Carmen Act 3. *C'est des contrebandiers...Je dis que rien ne m'épouvent*
07. Bizet Les Pecheurs de perles Act 2. *Me voilà seul...Comme autrefois*
08. Massenet Manon Act 2. *Allons!...Adieu, notre petite table*
09. Gounod Faust Act 3. *Je voudrais bien savoir...Il était un Roi de Thulé...Ah! Je ris (Jewel Song)*
10. Gounod Romeo et Juliette Act 1. *Voyons, nourrice...Je veux vivre (Waltz Song)*

CD2

01. Bellini I Puritani *O rendetemi la speme...Qui la voce...Vien, diletto*
02. Verdi La Traviata *E strano...Ah, fors' e lui, Sempre libera*
03. Puccini Gianni Schicchi *O mio babbino caro* [play](#)
04. Puccini Manon Lescaut *In quelle trini morbide*
05. Puccini La Rondine *Che il bel sogno di Doretta*
06. Puccini Suor Angelica *Senza mamma*
07. Puccini Turandot *Signiore ascolta*
08. Puccini Turandot *Tu che di gel sei cinta*
09. Mascagni Lodoletta *Ah! Il suo nome!...Flammen, perdonami!*
10. Mascagni L'amico Fritz *Son pochi fiori*
11. Mascagni L'amico Fritz *Non mi resta il pianto*
12. Cilea Adriana Lecouvreur *Io son l'umile ancella*
13. Cilea Adriana Lecouvreur *Poveri fiori*

Mirella Freni - Soprano (Vocal) Franco Ferraris - Conductor Nicolai Gedda - Tenor (Vocal)
La Scala Theater Orchestra Alain Lombard - Conductor Leone Magiera - Conductor
Francesco Molinari-Pradelli - Conductor Riccardo Muti - Conductor Paris National Opera
Orchestra Philharmonia Orchestra RAI Symphony Orchestra, Milan Teatro dell'Opera di
Roma Chorus & Orchestra Michele Vilma - Mezzo-Soprano (Vocal) Antonino Votto -
Conductor

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Mirella Freni made her professional debut as Micaela in Carmen in 1955 in her hometown of Modena and, over the following several seasons, sang at most of the leading Italian opera houses. She made her La Scala debut in 1963 as Nanetta in Falstaff and the following year; she achieved immediate international stardom there, when she was cast by Maestro Herbert von Karajan as Mimì in a new production of La Bohème staged by Franco Zeffirelli. Within a short period of time, guest appearances took Ms. Freni to the world's most important opera houses, including the Vienna State Opera, where the prestigious title "Kammersängerin" was conferred upon her by the Austrian Government. In North America, the soprano made her Metropolitan Opera debut in 1965. On that occasion, as on the occasions of debuts in San Francisco, Chicago, Houston, Philadelphia and Miami, the role of Mimì served as her calling card.

In 1970, Ms. Freni began a judicious transition from the purely lyric repertory to that of certain spinto roles, when she starred with Jon Vickers in a new production of Otello at the Salzburg Festival. The conductor was Maestro von Karajan who, perhaps more than anyone, had a profound influence on her career. Other conductors with whom the soprano has enjoyed extended collaborations include: Claudio Abbado, Roberto Abbado, Carlo Maria Giulini, Carlos Kleiber, George Prêtre and the aforementioned Maestri Levine, Muti, Ozawa and Sinopoli.

During the '70's and '80's, Mirella Freni continued to expand her repertory by undertaking major Verdi, Puccini and Russian operas, e.g. Don Carlo, Aida, Ernani, Manon Lescaut, Eugene Onegin and Pique Dame. In recent seasons, she has explored the verismo repertory, adding the title roles of Adriana Lecouvreur, Fedora and Madame Sans Gène and The Maid of Orleans. Many of Ms. Freni's distinguished video performances from the Metropolitan Opera, La Scala, Paris Opera and the Vienna State Opera are currently released on DVD. Most recently, Deutsche Grammophon has released the Metropolitan Opera telecasts of Don Carlo and Fedora with Ms. Freni and Placido Domingo.

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