Leonard Bernstein – West Side Story (Carreras, Te Kanawa) [1990]



01. Prologue 02. Jet Song 03. Something's Coming 04. The Dance at the Gym/Blues 05. The Dance at the Gym/Promenade 06. The Dance at the Gym/Mambo 07. The Dance at the Gym/Cha-Cha 08. The Dance at the Gym/Meeting Scene 09. The Dance at the Gym/Jump 10. Maria 11. Balcony Scene (Tonight) 12. America 13. Cool 14. One Hand, One Heart 15. Tonight (Ensemble) 16. The Rumble 17. I Feel Pretty 18. Ballet Sequence 19. Transition to Scherzo 20. Scherzo 21. Somewhere 22. Procession and Nightmare 23. Gee, Officer Krupke 24. A Boy Like That 25. I Have a Love 26. Taunting Scene 27. Finale Kiri Te Kanawa, Maria Jose Carreras, Tony Tatiana Troyanos, Anita Kurt Ollmann, Riff Marilyn Horne singing Somewhere Chorus and Orchestra Leonard Bernstein

Controversial as an essential Carreras recording, West Side Story isn't an opera, and neither is the tenor, operatic star José Carreras, an American-born Broadway singer. But the music is operatic in quality--let's say in durability. It is Bernstein's most established masterpiece, his surest claim to be remembered as a composer a century from now; the source is Shakespeare and the music has a seriousness, color, and intensity worthy of its subject. And this recording represents the way the composer wanted it to sound, with his choice of the best available voices. Carreras sounds like he was born to sing "Something's Coming," "Maria," and "Tonight." Perhaps he was born to sing them in Spanish, but opera lovers regularly take bigger language problems than that in stride for the sake of vocal quality. ---Joe McLellan, Editorial Reviews

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