

Enrico Caruso - Italian Songs (2002)

Written by bluesever

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01. *Vieni sul mar*
02. *O sole mio*
03. *Tu ca nun chiagne*
04. *Santa Lucia*
05. *Pecchè*
06. *L'Alba separa dalla luce l'ombra*
07. *Fenesta che lucive*
08. *Mamma mia che von sapé* [play](#)
09. *Musica proibita*
10. *Core 'ngrato*
11. *Luna d'estate*
12. *Ideale*
13. *'A vucchella*
14. *Vaghissima sembianza*
15. *Tarantella sicera* [play](#)
16. *Senza nisciuno*
17. *Addio a Napoli*

Vienna Radio Orchestra

Rolando Villiaze - conductor

As a follow-up to its Caruso 2000 release, RCA here offers us a remastered, implemented selection of Neapolitan songs recorded by Enrico Caruso between 1906 and 1920. The gimmick is again that the old recordings have been digitally stripped of their oompah, blaring instruments. In their place, the Vienna Radio Symphony Orchestra has provided modern accompaniment. It's still anachronistic--the voice remains in another acoustical era from the orchestra--but this time, the balance is a little better, and conductor Gottfried Rabl is amazingly sensitive to Caruso's style and phrasing. Moreover, of course, the pops and clicks of the old

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pre-electrical shellacs are gone. The voice retains its timbre and quality, thank goodness, and one can still marvel at the way the sound grew over the 14 years recorded here. It's always magnificent, but it became more baritone and muscular with age, without losing any of its thrills. The "Ideale" from 1906 remains an exquisitely tender piece of singing; elsewhere, the sheer visceral excitement of the voice dazzles. Purists may not approve. Those unfamiliar with the Caruso phenomenon should hear him under any circumstances, and this is as good a chance as any. --Robert Levine

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