

Kiri Te Kanawa – A Portrait (2004)

Written by bluesever

Saturday, 25 January 2014 17:04 -

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CD 1 1. *O mio babbino caro* (Puccini) 2:31 2. *Bad'łcro* (Canteloube) 6:44 3. *Malurous qu'o uno Fenno* (Canteloube) 1:35 4. *Porgi amor* (Mozart) 4:33 5. *Ch'io mi scordi di te?* (Mozart) 9:52 6. *Nemht meinen Dank* (Mozart) 3:39 7. *Ruhe sanft, mein holdes Leben* (Mozart) 6:40 8. *Beim Schlafengehen* (R. Strauss) 4:54 9. *Ave Maria* (Bach/Gounod) 2:49 10. *Pie Jesu* (Fauré) 3:47 11. *Panis Angelicus* (Franck) 3:41 12. *Mariettas Lied* (Korngold) 5:14 13. *Nuns' Chorus* (J. Strauss, Jr) 3:36 14. *Climb Ev'ry Mountain* (Rodgers) 3:15 15. *With One Look* (Lloyd-Webber) 3:34 16. *The Most Wonderful Birthday Of All* (Davis) 4:45 17. *Hine e hine* (Princess Te Rangī Pahi) 1:44
CD 2 1. *Schnelle FüÙe, rascher Mut* (Mozart) 4:58 2. *Virgins Are Like The Fair Flow'r* (Gay) 2:39 3. *Cease Your Funning* (Gay) 1:32 4. *Rejoice Greatly* (Händel) 4:25 5. *Blute nur* (J. S. Bach) 4:41 6. *Bist du bei mir BWV508* (J. S. Bach [attrib. Stölzel]) 2:52 7. *Aria* (Bachianas brasileiras No. 5) (Villa-Lobos) 6:44 8. *Ihr habt nun Traurigkeit* (Brahms) 8:24 9. *Vissi d'arte* (Puccini) 3:22 10. *Oh, sarđ la piđ bella! ... Tu, tu, amore?* (Puccini) 8:37 11. *Je dis que rien* (Bizet) 5:48 12. *Labiamo ne'lieti calici* (Verdi) 3:08 13. *Follie! ... Sempre libera* (Verdi) 4:42 14. *Wouldn't It Be Lovely?* (Loewe) 4:50 15. *The Folks Who Live On The Hill* (Kern) 4:41 16. *Art Is Calling For Me* (Herber) 3:56

Kiri Te Kanawa – soprano Jose Carreras – tenor Chris Bowers Broadbent – organ Mitsuko Uchida - piano Sir Colin Davis (cd1: 7) Sir Georg Solti (cd1: 4;8;cd2:4;5;8;9;11) Jeffrey Tate (cd1: 2;3;5; cd2: 7) Stephen Barlow (cd1: 1;12;15;cd2: 16) György Fisher (cd1: 6) Julius Rudel (cd1: 9;13;14) Charles Dutoit (cd1: 10) Barry Rose (cd1: 11) Waihirere Maori Group (cd1:17) Neville Marriner (cd2: 1) Richard Bonyngé (cd2: 2;3) Riccardo Chailly (cd2:10) Zubin Mehta (cd2: 12;13) John Mauceri (cd2: 14) Nelson Riddle & His Orchestra (cd2: 15) Carl Davis (cd1: 16)

Kiri Te Kanawa has to be reckoned with as one of the major singers of art music. Over the years, Decca has kept sort of a low profile in assembling greatest-hits type packages for Te Kanawa, preferring instead to keep as many of her full-price offerings in the active catalog as possible. With *Kiri Te Kanawa: A Portrait*, Decca has decided to take a new approach, and the consumer comes out the winner.

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Decca has dusted off a long-deleted, single-disc collection, Kiri: A Portrait, issued in 1987 as Decca/London 417645, and has generously filled it out to a two-disc set. The liner notes were written by the co-producer of this collection, Cyrus Meher-Homji (marketing and repertoire manager for Universal's classical and jazz division in Australia), and are a bit exorbitant in their unrestrained praise for Te Kanawa, but the music isn't hype, as Te Kanawa's best work was done for Decca. This disc covers Te Kanawa's take on works ranging from arias from John Gay's *The Beggar's Opera* to a native Maori song she has known since her childhood in New Zealand. The selection is varied and well-chosen, but for the listener, what is sung becomes a second consideration to how well Te Kanawa sings it, and hers is a silvery, beautiful voice that is heard here to its best advantage. If you are not familiar with Kiri Te Kanawa and want to know more of her work, this is likely your best option as a place to start. Established fans of Te Kanawa, however, may still want *Kiri Te Kanawa: A Portrait* for its convenience, good sound, and reasonable asking price. --- Uncle Dave Lewis, Rovi

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