

Maria Callas – Los Angeles Concert 1958

Written by bluesever

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1. Spontini: *LA VESTALE* - *Tu che invoco*
2. Verdi: *MACBETH* - *Nel dì della vittoria... Vieni, t'affretta*
3. Rossini: *IL BARBIERE DI SIVIGLIA* - *Una voce poco fa*
4. Boïto: *MEFISTOFELE* - *L'altra notte*
5. Puccini: *LA BOHÈME* - *Quando m'en vo'*
6. Thomas: *HAMLET* - *A vos jeux (Mad scene)*

Maria Callas, soprano

Nicola Rescigno, conductor

Shrine Auditorium, Los Angeles

November 29, 1958

This recently released recording is of Maria Callas' 1958 concert in Los Angeles, from her first U.S. tour. Despite the technical limitations of live recordings of the day (and this one is very limited, having been made on a portable recorder from the audience), this one is sure to impress. It is amazing how the sheer power of Callas' voice carries, without amplification, over the orchestra. She never overpowers. Rather, she is always expressive and musical.

The beauty of her performance and the depth of her range saves LOS ANGELES CONCERT from being of merely archival interest. She moves with grace from a heady excerpt from Verdi's 'Macbeth' to the lighter fare of Rossini. The unaccompanied passages in "Una voce poco fa," from 'The Barber of Seville' are worth the purchase alone. This CD shows Callas at the height of her ability. The somewhat low-fi recording doesn't detract from this in the least. In fact, it will only make you wish you could have been at the performance. ---Rovi

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