



PAC0035

TOSCANINI CONDUCTS VERDI'S FALSTAFF

VIENNA PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

VIENNA STATE OPERA CHORUS AND BALLET



Falstaff - Mariano Stabile
Ford - Pietro Basiari
Fenton - Dino Borgoli
Dr.Caius - Alfredo Tedeschi
Baroloph - Giuseppe Nessi

Pisard - Virgilio Lazzari
Mrs.Ford - Franca Somigli
Nanette - Augusta Oltrabella
Mrs.Page - Mita Vasari
Mrs.Quidely - Angelica Cravenco

Scenic Designer - Guido Salvini
Stage Director - Robert Kausky
Costumes - Ladislaus Csetel
Choreography - Margarete Waldmann

Disc One

- [1] Act I - Part One:
Falstaff Ohi! (5:08)
- [2] Sei polli: sei scellini...So che andiam, la notte (2:50)
- [3] Ma è tempo d'assottigliar l'ingegno..V'è noto un tal, qui del paese (4:04)
- [4] L'Onore! Ladri! (4:13)
- [5] Act I - Part Two:
Alice, Meg, Nannetta (1:21)
- [6] **Fulgida Alice!** amor t'offro...Quell'orel quel tinol (4:00)
- [7] In due parole (1:27)
- [8] **Pst, pst, Nannetta...** labbra di locol (5:16)
- [9] **Udral** quanta egli sfoglia (3:06)
- [10] Act II - Part One:
Siam pentiti e contiti... Reverenzal (6:37)
- [11] **Alice è mia!**... Va, vecchio John (2:02)
- [12] **Signore, v'assista il ciel!** (2:58)
- [13] **C'è a Windsor una danna** (7:08)
- [14] **E sogno? o realtà** (6:12)
- [15] **Disc Two**
[1] Act II - Part Two:
Presenteremo un bill..Giunta all'Albergo della **Garrettina** (4:05)
- [2] **Gale comari di Windsor!** (1:48)
- [3] **Alfin l'ho colto, fuggente fior** (3:34)
- [4] **Quand'ero puggio** (1:01)
- [5] **Mia signora!** (2:44)
- [6] **Vien qua, Che Chassol** (1:36)
- [7] **C'è, C'è, Se t'agguantol Se ti pigliol** (5:07)
- [8] Act III - Part One:
Ehil Tavernier! Mondo ladro (6:15)
- [9] **Reverenza. La bella Alice...**Quando il rintocco della mezzanotte (5:19)
- [10] **Brava. Quelle corna saranno la mia gioia!** (5:01)
- [11] Act III - Part Two:
Dal labbro il canto estasiato vola (5:20)
- [12] **Una, due, tre, quattro** (4:00)
- [13] **Ninfel Elfi Sili!**... Sul fin d'un soffio eteso (6:02)
- [14] **Alto là!..Pizzica, pizzica** (6:27)
- [15] **Ogni sorta di gente dozzinale** (4:04)
- [16] **Facciamo il parentado...** Tutto nel mando è burla (3:42)

Live concert recording, 9th August 1937, Salzburg Festival, recorded by Radio-Verkehrs-AG (RAVAAG), Vienna

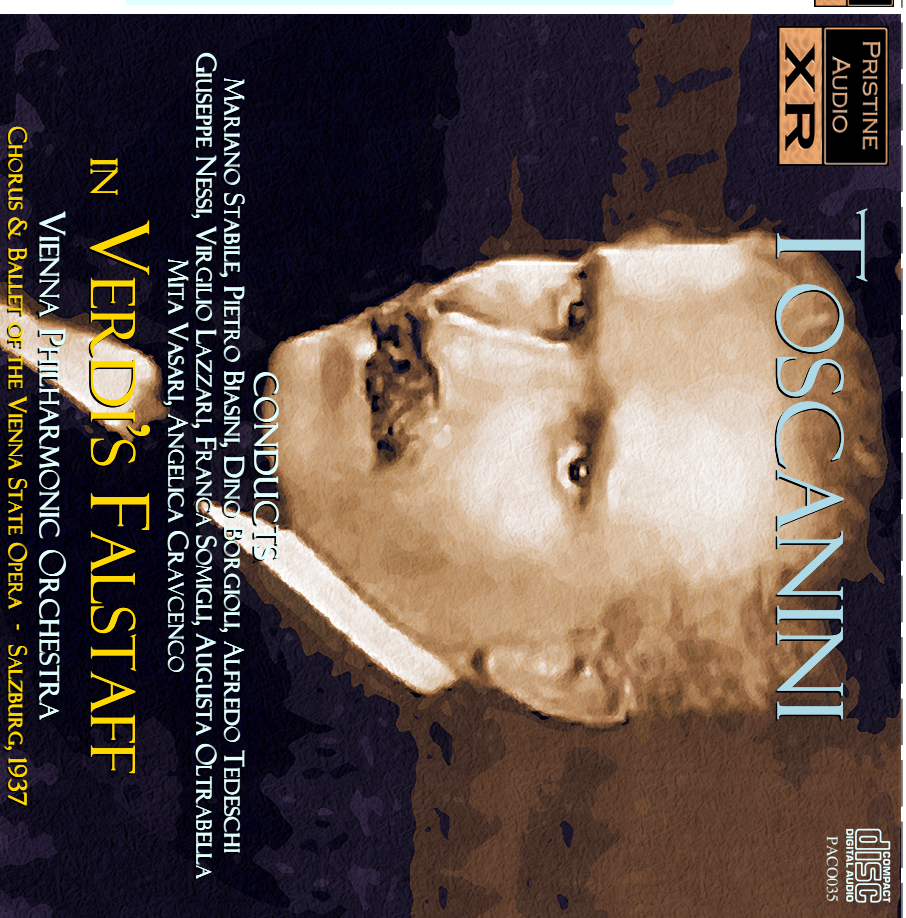
Transferred from three Penzance private pressing LPs PR 37, sides A-F

Transfers and XR remastering by Andrew Rose at Pristine Audio, October 2009

Cover artwork based on a photograph of Arturo Toscanini

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TOSCANINI CONDUCTS VERDI'S FALSTAFF

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PACO 035

VERDI FALSTAFF
TOSCANINI, VPO, VSO CHORUS AND SOLOISTS

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Falstaff is an operatic commedia lirica in three acts by Giuseppe Verdi, adapted by Arrigo Boito from Shakespeare's plays *The Merry Wives of Windsor* and scenes from *Henry IV*. It was Verdi's last opera, written in the composer's ninth decade, and only the second of his 26 operas to be a comedy. It was also the third of Verdi's operas to be based on a Shakespearean play, following his earlier *Macbeth* and *Otello*. (Verdi had toyed, too, with writing an opera based on *King Lear* and Arrigo Boito later tried to interest him in *Anthony and Cleopatra*, but neither project was ever brought to fruition.)

The first performance of *Falstaff* took place on 9 February 1893 at La Scala, Milan to great success. The illustrious French baritone Victor Maurel, who had created the role of Iago in Verdi's previous opera, *Otello*, sang *Falstaff* at the premiere.

While it has not proved to be as immensely popular as the Verdi works that immediately preceded it, namely *Aida* and *Otello*, *Falstaff* has long been an admired favorite with critics and musicians because of its brilliant orchestration, scintillating libretto and refined melodic invention. It is in the standard repertoire of many opera companies.

The first performance abroad was in Vienna, on 21 May 1893. Hamburg first saw *Falstaff* on 2 January 1894, conducted by Gustav Mahler. In the UK, the opera was first presented at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden on 19 May 1894 with Arturo Pessina in the title role, while the US premiere was at the Metropolitan Opera, New York, on 4 February 1895 with Victor Maurel as *Falstaff*. The opera is still frequently performed throughout the world.

This remarkable recording, made at a full, live stage performance at the Salzburg Festival in August 1937, was the second of three performances given by Toscanini during the festival, during which time he also conducted Beethoven's *Fidelio*, Mozart's *Die Zauberflöte* and Wagner's *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg*. In deciding to remaster it from the particular source available to me - six LP sides in a "private recording" set of discs issued by "Penzance Records", I was well aware of the potential inadequacies of the source material and thus the possible limitation of results.

The main source for this recording exists as a selenophone film at the New York Public Library, and was the source for a recent CD issue. With this unavailable to me, the decision to work from these LPs was taken after considerable investigation into their sound quality, when compared with both the newer transfers and other previous LP incarnations. It soon became clear that the Penzance transfers were actually well made and true to their source, with little or no filtering or other intervention, and provided a good base from which to work (they remain the favoured transfers for some).

Even so, it was only after considerable XR remastering work and comparisons with other releases that I decided to go ahead and complete what has been a lengthy and difficult restoration. This would not have been contemplated had it not been clear to me that many significant sonic improvements might be had over all the previous issues I've been able to sample, something I believe has been achieved here. - *Andrew Rose*

NOTES FROM WIKIPEDIA AND BY ANDREW ROSE - FURTHER NOTES ONLINE AT WWW.PRISTINECLASSICAL.COM

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