

COMPACT
disc
DIGITAL AUDIO
PACO 079

Kirsten Flagstad

Song Recital

PRISTINE
AUDIO
XR

Kirsten Malfrið Flagstad (12 July 1895 – 7 December 1962) was a Norwegian opera singer and a highly regarded Wagnerian (dramatic) soprano. She ranks among the greatest singers of the 20th century; indeed, many opera critics called her "the voice of the century." To quote Desmond Shaver-Taylor in New Grove Dictionary of Opera: "No one within living memory surpassed her in sheer beauty and consistency of line and tone."

Flagstad was born in Hamar in her grandparents' home. Though she never actually lived in Hamar, she always considered it her home town. She was raised in Oslo within a musical family; her father was a conductor and her mother a pianist. She received her early musical training in Oslo and made her stage debut at the National Theatre in Oslo as Nuri in Eugen d'Albert's *Die Hand in der Hand* in 1913. Her first recordings were made between 1913 and 1915...

Biographical notes from Wikipedia

Producer's Note

Flagstad's postwar American recordings for RCA Victor, made between 1950 and 1952, form one of the least-known portions of her discography, not least because of their lack of availability for most of the past half century. Except for a 1965 LP reissue of Haugtussa and a subsequent inclusion of one of its tracks on a 1993 CD devoted to historic recordings of Grieg songs, the recordings featured here have not been available in any form since the 1950s.

The reason has less to do with the quality of the singing – after all, it was only two months after the last session on this program that Flagstad recorded her iconic *Isolde* under Furtwängler – but rather with RCA's lack of interest in reissuing anything other than her Wagner recordings. (Her prewar RCA song recordings have similarly been ignored, although at least those have been reissued on CD by independent labels.) Except for the Haugtussa cycle, which Flagstad recorded on two other occasions (Victor, 1940; Decca, 1957), most of the items taped in these sessions were the soprano's only recordings of the works, which makes their reissue doubly valuable.

This release is the first of two which will reintroduce these recordings to modern audiences. The second volume will feature more Schubert and Brahms, along with Richard Strauss and a group of songs in English by contemporary composers. Comparative listeners will note that this Haugtussa, recorded in the same Hollywood studio ten years after her initial version, runs about a minute and a half longer than the 1940 recording, while her familiar Charles encore is paced much more swiftly than its 1936 predecessor.

Mark Obert-Thorn

FULL PROGRAMME NOTES CAN BE FOUND ONLINE AT WWW.PRISTINECLASSICAL.COM
SARL Pristine Audio, Le Bourg, 24610 St. Méard de Gurçon, France - Tel. (00) 33 553 821857
www.pristineclassical.com

COMPACT
disc
DIGITAL AUDIO
PACO 079

Kirsten Flagstad

Song Recital

SCHUMANN
Frauenliebe und -leben

GRIEG
Haugtussa

Songs by **Schubert**,
Brahms and **Charles**

Edwin McArthur piano

Studio recordings, 1950 and 1952

Obert-Thorn



Kirsten Flagstad Song Recital

SCHUBERT

- 1 Die junge Nonne, D.828 (*Text: Craigher*) (4:46)
- 2 Die Liebe hat gelogen, D.751 (*Text: Platen*) (2:49)
- 3 Die Post (Die Winterreise, D.911, No. 13) (*Text: Müller*) (2:35)
- 4 Der Wegweiser (Die Winterreise, D.911, No. 20) (*Text: Müller*) (4:23)

SCHUMANN *Frauenliebe und -leben, Op. 42* (Text: Chamisso)

- ☑ Seit ich ihn gesehen (2:18)
- ☑ Er, der Herrlichste von Allen (3:14)
- ☑ Ich kann's nicht fassen, nicht glauben (1:26)
- ☑ Du Ring an meinem Finger (2:09)
- ☑ Helft mir, ihr Schwestern (1:55)
- ☑ Süßer Freund, du blickest (3:46)
- ☑ An meinem Herzen (1:18)
- ☑ Nun hast du mir den ersten Schmerz getan (3:43)

BRAHMS

- [13] Liebestreu, Op. 3, No. 1 (*Text: Reinick*) (2:45)
 [14] Meine liebe ist grün, Op. 63, No. 5 (*Text: F. Schumann*) (1:15)
 [15] Sind es Schmerzen, sind des Freuden, Op. 33, No. 3 (*Text: Tieck*) (5:58)

GRIEG *Haugtussa, Op. 67* (Text: Garborg)

- [16] Det Syng [*The Singing*] (4:40)
 [17] Veslemøy [*Little Maiden*] (2:57)
 [18] Blåber-Li [*Bilberry Slopes*] (4:02)
 [19] Mote [*Meeting*] (4:08)
 [20] Elsk [*Love*] (3:15)
 [21] Killingsdans [*Kidlings' Dance*] (1:50)
 [22] Vond Dag [*Evil Day*] (2:32)
 [23] Ved Gjøtte-Bekken [*At the Brook*] (7:05)
 [24] Ernest CHARLES When I have sung my songs (*Text: Charles*) (2:10)

Edwin McArthur piano



KIRSTEN FLAGSTAD - SONG RECITATOR
KIRSTEN FLAGSTAD, EDWIN McARTHUR

PACO 079

PRISTINE
AUDIO

Producer & Audio Restoration Engineer
Mark Obert-Thorn

Cover artwork based on a photograph of **Kirsten Flagstad**

Tracks 1-12: Recorded 17 March 1952
in RCA Studio No. 2, New York
Tracks 13-15: Recorded 10 April 1952
in RCA Studio No. 2, New York
Tracks 16- 23: Recorded 26 April 1950
in the RCA Studios, Hollywood
Track 24: Recorded 18 March 1952
in RCA Studio No. 2, New York

Tracks 1-4 and 13-15 first issued on RCA Victor LM-1870
Tracks 5-12 and 24 first issued on RCA Victor LM-1738
Tracks 16-23 first issued on RCA Victor LM-1094

Special thanks to Maynard F. Bertolet and Howard Sanner for providing source material

Total duration: 76:59

For a full catalogue visit
www.pristineclassical.com
or call : (00) 33 979 622713

© 2012 Pristine Audio

