

COMPACT  
DIGITAL AUDIO  
PACO 082

# Kirsten Flagstad Song Recital 2

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The art of Kirsten Flagstad (1895-1962) receives excellent service by way of Pristine and master restoration engineer Mark Obert-Thorn, who revive inscriptions the great Norwegian soprano made for RCA, 1950-1952. The original vinyl LPs from which many of the songs derive have passed into obscurity, since RCA seems to have lost interest in Flagstad's post-war efforts...

The Schubert (17 March 1952) and Brahms (10 April 1952) provide just the kinds of vocal elegance and virtuosity in which Flagstad exhibits as much restraint as she does vocal prowess. Schubert's "Die junge Nonne" offers another of his 'dark and stormy nights' narratives that could bathe in 'religious' treacle, if permitted. Of the Brahms group, "Meine liebe ist grün," *Op. 63, No. 5* bursts forth with a vehemence not easily matched, either by the composer or fellow vocalists. The "Sind es Schmerzen, sind des Freudes," *Op. 33, No. 3* offers wonderful accompaniment from McArthur, the song taken from the Tieck cycle of courtly love and loss, *Die schöne Magelone*. The tissue of medieval ardor that Flagstad and McArthur weave suggest that this opus stood as his personal version of *Tristan*.

**Gary Lemco, *Audiophile Audition*** (review of companion release P-ACO079 - "Kirsten Flagstad Song Recital", excerpt)  
12 August 2012. [www.audiand.com](http://www.audiand.com)

## Producer's Note

The present release is the second of two devoted to Flagstad's complete postwar American recordings for RCA Victor. As noted in the first volume (P-ACO 079), these recordings form one of the least-known portions of Flagstad's discography, not least because of their lack of availability for most of the past half century. The bulk of the items featured here have not been available in any form since the 1950s, and none have previously appeared on CD. In addition, most of the songs taped in these sessions were the soprano's only recordings of the works, which makes their reissue doubly valuable.

As noted in the earlier volume, the reason for the absence of these recordings from the catalog for so long 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.) Of particular interest here is the group of songs by American composers, including two by her longtime accompanist, Edwin McArthur.

The sources for the transfers were a British HMV LP for the two Schubert songs, a Canadian RCA pressing for the remaining items from LM-1738, and multiple copies of first-edition American pressings for the remaining items. The crackling noise heard at the beginning of Track 10 is in the original tape master and appears on all LP editions.  
**Mark Obert-Thorn**

FULL PROGRAMME NOTES CAN BE FOUND ONLINE AT [WWW.PRISTINECLASSICAL.COM](http://WWW.PRISTINECLASSICAL.COM)  
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## Song Recital 2

A collection of songs by

**Schubert, Brahms,  
R. Strauss, Kramer,  
Carpenter, Rogers,  
Sneaks, McArthur,  
Taylor, Tyson**

**Edwin McArthur piano**

Studio recordings, 1952

**Obert-Thorn**



## Kirsten Flagstad Song Recital 2

- 1 **SCHUBERT** **An die Musik**, D.547 (*Text: Schöber*) (2:58)
- 2 **SCHUBERT** **Ganymed**, D.544 (*Text: Goethe*) (4:08)
- 3 **BRAHMS** **Von ewiger Liebe**, Op. 43, No. 1 (*Text: Wenzig*) (4:32)
- 4 **BRAHMS** **O wüsst' ich doch den Weg zurück**, Op. 63, No. 8 (*Text: Groth*) (3:31)
- 5 **BRAHMS** **Muss es eine Trennung geben**, Op. 33, No. 12 (*Text: Tieck*) (3:21)
- 6 **BRAHMS** **Wie froh und Frisch**, Op. 33, No. 14 (*Text: Tieck*) (2:22)
- 7 **R. STRAUSS** **Mein Herz ist stumm, mein Herz ist kalt**, Op. 19, No. 6 (*Text: Schack*) (3:37)
- 8 **R. STRAUSS** **Ich liebe Dich**, Op. 37, No. 2 (*Text: Liliencrem*) (2:24)
- 9 **R. STRAUSS** **Ruhe, meine Seele**, Op. 27, No. 1 (*Text: Henckell*) (3:44)
- 10 **R. STRAUSS** **Wiegenlied**, Op. 41a, No. 1 (*Text: Dehmel*) (4:20)
- 11 **R. STRAUSS** **Allerseelen**, Op. 10, No. 8 (*Text: Gilml*) (3:22)
- 12 **R. STRAUSS** **Zueignung**, Op. 10, No. 1 (*Text: Gilml*) (1:53)
- 13 **R. STRAUSS** **Du meines Herzens Krönelein**, Op. 21, No. 2 (*Text: Dahn*) (2:31)
- 14 **R. STRAUSS** **Ach Lieb' ich muss nun scheiden**, Op. 21, No. 3 (*Text: Dahn*) (2:16)
- 15 **J. Walter KRAMER** **Now like a lantern** (*Text: Raphael*) (2:50)
- 16 **John Alden CARPENTER** **When I bring to you colour'd toys** (*Text: Tagore*) (2:20)
- 17 **John Alden CARPENTER** **The sleep that flits on baby's eyes** (*Text: Tagore*) (2:34)
- 18 **James H. ROGERS** **At parting** (*Text: Peterson*) (2:08)
- 19 **Oley SPEAKS** **Morning** (*Text: Stanton*) (2:10)
- 20 **Edwin McARTHUR** **We have turned again home** (*Text: Townie*) (2:49)
- 21 **Edwin McARTHUR** **Night** (*Text: Townie*) (2:53)
- 22 **Deems TAYLOR** **A song for lovers**, Op. 13, No. 2 (*Text: Stephens*) (2:52)
- 23 **Mildred TYSON** **Sea moods** (*Text: Benham*) (2:48)