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PACO 106

ARTURO TOSCANINI

All-Verdi Concert, 25 July 1943

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"It was during this broadcast that Mussolini's downfall was announced. Harvey Sachs has described what occurred in the studio:

Toscanini and soprano Gertrude Ribla had just left the stage when an announcement was broadcast into the hall and over the air: Benito Mussolini had been deposed. Toscanini, beside himself, rushed back on the stage, clasped his hands and gazed heavenwards, in a sign of thanksgiving, while the audience, equally beside itself, applauded, cheered, screamed, and all but tore the studio to pieces.

None of this bedlam could have been apparent to those listening on the radio. Two announcements of Mussolini's deposition went over the air, the first in an intermission talk carried by shortwave from the Pacific given by Admiral Harold R. Stark. It was probably during this talk that the audience erupted. After Stark concluded, the broadcast switched to the NBC newsroom, where a "roundup of the important events of the day from Italy" was given that included a second announcement of the deposition. When Ben Grauer then returned to introduce Act III of Rigoletto, no audience reaction was evident."

From "Arturo Toscanini: The NBC Years" by **Mortimer H. Frank**, Amadeus Press

Producer's Note

This recording was restored from a set of very high quality acetate dubs supplied to me by a donor who prefers to remain anonymous. The sound quality of these is unprecedented and gave me a huge head start in preparing this release. For extended sections I was lucky enough to have two different copies to choose from with different degrees of wear - each side lasted roughly a quarter of an hour. Wear and tear was uneven across the entire concert, with lengthy sections of the broadcast immaculate, but elsewhere surface noise clearly in evidence and requiring extensive restoration work. I have preserved the concert exactly as broadcast save for two cuts: the long interval talk by short-wave radio has been faded out at the start then back in at the end, and the look-ahead in Ben Grauer's closing announcement has been cut. Elsewhere you'll hear evidence of a lack of communication between Grauer and Toscanini as the music cuts across two of the announcements. I've also retained the newsroom announcement of the end of Mussolini's reign over Italy as broadcast. These are, however, mere historical details. What's most important is of course the music, which has been superbly preserved here. I've given the notoriously dry 8H sound just the slightest acoustic softening, retaining the directness Toscanini desired whilst just slightly rounding out the voices and orchestral tone with the merest hint of Sydney Opera House convolution reverb, an acoustic which seemed most sympathetic to the performances. **Andrew Rose**

FULL PROGRAMME NOTES CAN BE FOUND ONLINE AT WWW.PRISTINECLASSICAL.COM
SARL Pristine Audio, 144 Rue de l'Eglise, 24610 St. Méard de Gurçon, France



Toscanini

All-Verdi Concert 25th July 1943

Featuring music from:
Luisa Miller
Don Carlo
Un ballo in maschero
La forza del destino
Rigoletto

Gertrude Ribla, soprano
Nan Merriman, mezzo-soprano
Jan Peerce, tenor
Frank Valentino, baritone
Nicola Moscona, bass
NBC Symphony Orchestra

The War Bonds Concert broadcast live from Studio 8H

Toscanini All-Verdi War Bonds Concert



XR remastering by Andrew Rose

Cover artwork based on a photograph of
Arturo Toscanini

Broadcast recording from NBC Studio 8H
New York City, 25 July 1943
Broadcast live by NBC, 5.00 - 6.15pm

Total duration: 64:14

- 1 Introduction - Ben Grauer (1:20)
- 2 Luisa Miller - Overture (5:31)
- 3 Luisa Miller - Quando le sere (5:25) with Jan Peerce
- 4 Don Carlo - O don fatale (4:50) with Nan Merriman
- 5 Un ballo in maschera - Eri tu (6:47) with Frank Valentino
- 6 La forza del destino - Pace, pace, mio Dio (5:19) with Gertrude Ribla
- 7 Interval (3:06)
- 8 Rigoletto - Act 3 (31:00) with all soloists
- 9 End announcements (0:56)

Gertrude Ribla soprano
Nan Merriman mezzo-soprano
Jan Peerce tenor
Frank Valentino baritone
Nicola Moscona bass

NBC Symphony Orchestra

Arturo Toscanini conductor

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