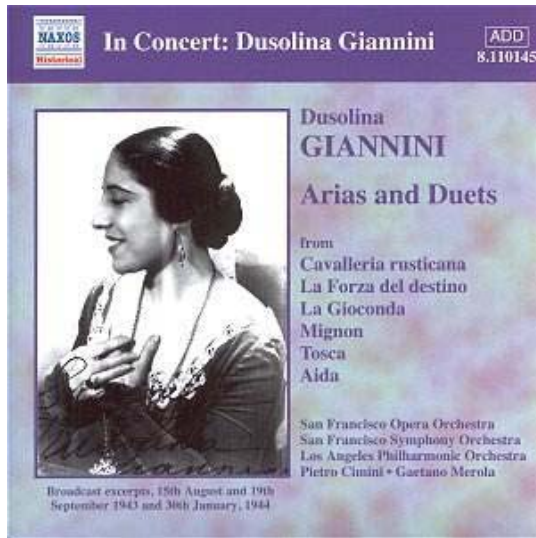


CD REVIEW 22
DUSOLINA GIANNINI
Arias and Duets



Verdi	Son giunta (Force of Destiny)
	Pace, pace mio dio (Force of Destiny)
Thomas	Connais-tu le pays (Mignon)
Ponchielli	Suicidio (La Gioconda)
Verdi	Ritorna vincitor (Aida)
Rogers/Nevin	The Rosary
Jacobs-Bond	I love you truly
Puccini	Vissa d'arte (Tosca)
Mascagni	Dite, Mamma Lucia (Cavalleria Rusticana)
	Vio lo sapate (Cavalleria Rusticana)
	Intermezzo (Cavalleria Rusticana)

Naxos Historical 8.110145 (ADD)

What a voice! What reliable interpretations! What amazing clarity of intonation! What accuracy! What stunning ability to communicate!

And yet there are people who do not know Dusolina Giannini, and that is more than sad!

She is greater than some of the more recent and famous names. Her performances are spine tingling! While the whole range of her voice is superb listen to those secure top notes. And her low notes are amazing!

She was born of an Italian family in Philadelphia in 1902. They were a very musical family. Her father, Ferruccio (1868-1948) was a fine tenor; Dusolina's brother, Vittorio (1903- 1966), was a composer of five numbered symphonies and a symphony to the memory of Theodore Roosevelt, six operas, a piano concerto and an organ concerto and chamber music. Dusolina's sister, Eufemia Gianni-Gregory became a voice trainer at The Curtis Institute and, among her students, was Anna Moffo.

The family had emigrated to the USA in 1885.

Dusolina's parents owned a theatre.

At first she studied with her father, then, later, in New York with Marcella Senbrach. At the age of twelve, Dusolina sang Cieca in La Gioconda and then Azucena in Il Trovatore. She had a successful debut in Carnegie Hall in 1923 stepping in at the last minute for a sick colleague. In 1924, she starred in Aida in Hamburg and from then on was in demand throughout Europe. She was Leonora in The Force of Destiny and undertook strenuous tours to Australia and New Zealand and right across the USA.

She made her Paris debut in 1936 as Donna Anna having sung this role and that of Alice Ford at the Salzburg Festival. She premiered the role of Hester Prynne in her brother's opera, The Scarlet Letter, in 1938.

She was brilliant as Kundry in Parisfal.

Occasionally, her performances were controversial. Her voice could be unsteady in her most dramatic roles. I do not always like her portamentos but it was the custom of the day and, even today, all

sopranos do it. Her French was sometimes a little suspect.

She recorded for RCA Victor and, as well as Leider, sang popular ballads. Listen to the passion and sincerity in I love you truly.

On retiring, she taught singing in Zurich where she died on 29 June 1986.

The beauty of her voice is captured in Vissa d'arte, a poignant performance that makes even tough men weep. You will not hear it sung better!

Her gift for lyricism is shown in the Mascagni excerpts. She is joined here by Claramae Turner, and American contralto, born in California in 1920, and who sang in operas by Verdi, Menotti, Humperdinck, Copland and Gounod. She is the voice for June is bustin out all over and You'll never walk alone in the film Carousel.

The recordings on this CD date from 1943 and 1944. The orchestra sometimes seems a little distant.

But what a voice Giannini had! All lovers of great singers and magnificent voices must buy this CD.



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