Spontini - Agnese di Hohenstaufen (Gui -Florencia 1954) [2005]

1. CD1 2. CD2 Agnes - Lucilla Udovich Irmengard - Dorothy Dow Der junge Heinrich - Alvaro Cordova Herzog von Burgund - Franco Corelli Der Kaiser - Giangiacomo Guelfi Philipp von Hohenstaufen - Francesco Albanese Heinrich der Löwe - Anselmo Colzani Der Erzbischof - Arnold Van Mill Theobald - Valiano Natali Erster Richter - Lido Pettini Zweiter Richter - Raniero Rossi Ein Herold - Jorge (Giorgio) Algorta Maggio Musicale Fiorentino Vittorio Gui – conductor

Agnese von Hohenstaufen is a three-act historical-romantic opera by Gaspare Spontini. Spontini was an Italian opera composer who studied with Piccini. He found his greatest outlet writing for the Paris Opera under Napoleon, creating large scale works with historical subjects and political significance. He also spent some time in Dresden, and this opera represents an attempt to integrate German Romantic elements with French neo-Classicism. Spontini worked for years on Agnese. It was his final opera, and he considered it his greatest achievement. The setting is twelfth century France, and concerns political intrigue, a daring prison escape, and a secret, forbidden, romance and marriage. In this opera, Spontini created formal organization on a grand and monumental scale, and intense romantic drama. He subordinates the solo arias to large-scale organization, and tries to subsume them within extensive ensemble forms. With an oversize orchestra he writes massive instrumental and vocal tableaux. Agnese von Hohenstaufen premiered in Berlin at the Konigliches Opernhaus on June 12, 1829. The libretto was written by Ernst Raupach. It was revived twice in the twentieth century, and is considered to be a significant achievement in early-nineteenth century opera, because of its success at integrating various operatic trends. ---Rita Laurance, Rovi

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