This recording is of little known and obscure songs for voice and piano or voice and orchestra that Puccini wrote but were never popular enough to bring him the attention that he received with his operatic work- Tosca, Madama Butterfly, Turandot, etc. Placido Domingo is an expert Puccini tenor and he sings these songs with exquisite lyrical beauty and vocal bravura. Conductor Julius Rudel knows how to bring out the passion and golden tones in the music and the orchestra accompanies Placido with stunning precision. A te ("O quanto è vano") is a beautiful romantic piece that is sure to delight the listener. I also enjoyed the Hymns to Diana and Urania, as well the Rome anthem. The Morire song was lifted from the original score to Tosca, it is a song that Cavaradossi sings to Tosca before the execution in the last act. The music is stunning and Placido Domingo can sail through the music of Puccini like no other. He was born to sing Puccini, both unknown works and famous ones. The photo cover is of Domingo dressed up as Puccini and it's a remarkable resemblance. Very attractive cover! --- A Kid's Review, amazon.com

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