

## Ute Lemper - Sings Kurt Weill (1988)

Written by bluelover

Wednesday, 07 January 2015 17:18 - Last Updated Thursday, 31 August 2017 12:07

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Der Silbersee 01. Fennimores Lied 02. Casars Tod Die Dreigroschenoper 03. Die Moritat  
Von Mackie Messer 04. Salomon-Song 05. Die Ballade Von Der Sexuellen Horigkeit  
Berliner Requiem  
06. Zu Potsdam Unter Den Eichen 07. Nannas Lied  
Der Silbersee  
08. Lied Das Lotterieagenten  
Aufstieg Und Fall Der Stadt Mahagonny  
09. Alabama-Song 10. Denn Wie Man Sich Bettet 11. Je Ne T'Aime Pas  
One Touch Of Venus  
12. I'm A Stranger Here Myself 13. Westwind 14. Speak Low  
Ute Lemper – Soprano (Vocals) Wolfgang Sebastian Meyer - Harmonium Kai Rautenberg -  
Piano RIAS Berlin Kammerensemble John Mauceri - Conductor

I had heard a track or two of Ute Lemper's versions of Brecht/Weill on classical radio and had my doubts about her interpretations. I guess that's because Lotte Lenya's versions were just so deeply ingrained in the old brain. But a more careful listen to the entire CD won me over. Completely.

There does seem to be a current bias toward a declamatory approach to singing Weill. Theater historians maintain that it wasn't always so. Even Lenya's classic Columbia sides, it should be remembered, were recorded relatively late in her career when her voice was a lot rougher and smokier than it had been in her youth.

I don't imagine that Lemper was trying for the definitive interpretation, but what she does achieve is remarkable. I found I was hearing these songs in a new way--maybe it was actually the original way (if the historians are correct)--whatever the case I am grateful for the

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experience.

The French and English language tracks are fine too. Ute may be overdoing the Noo Yawk brassiness she attempts on "Stranger Here Myself"--but only by just a hair. Not really worth quibbling about. Ute Lemper is a major talent. Anyone at all interested in Kurt Weill's legacy would be well advised to check this recording out. --- Gregor von Kallahann, amazon.com

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