

Giacomo Meyerbeer – Gli Ugonotti (1995)



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Margherita di Valois - Joan Sutherland Raul de Nangis - Franco Corelli Il Conte di Saint Bris - Giorgio Tozzi Valentina - Giulietta Simionato Urbano - Fiorenza Cossotto Marcello - Nicolai Ghiaurov Il Conte di Nevers - Wladimiro Ganzarolli Tavannes - Piero de Palma Cossé -

Giuseppe Bertinazzo Thoré - Manuel Spatafora De Retz - Antonio Gassinelli Méru - Alfredo Giacomotti Maurevert - Silvio Maionica Bois-Rosé - Walter Gullino Léonard - Angelo Mercuriali Un arciera - Virgilio Carbonari Una dama - Clara Fotti Quattro signori - Walter Gullino, Angelo Mercuriali, Giuseppe Morresi, Alfredo Giacomotti Due zingare - Clara Fotti, Maddalena Bonifaccio Tre frati - Enzo Guagni, Virgilio Carbonari, Giovanni Antonini. La Scala Theater Orchestra Conducted by Gianandrea Gavazzeni Teatro alla Scala, Milan, June 7, 1962.

With Dame Joan Sutherland supremely cast as Queen Marguerite, one of the most difficult role in the coloratura repertoire, how can you lose? This performance was recorded in 1962, only a little after Sutherland's historical debut at La Scala, Milan as Lucia di Lammermoor in which the diva received 30 curtain calls after an astonishingly sung mad scene. I was there and was completely shattered by gorgeous tone and incredible singing. It really was a revelation in the Art of Bel Canto!!! She was immediately dubbed La Stupenda, and proclaimed Prima Donna Assoluta of the entire world, pushing Maria Callas and Renata Tebaldi aside. This recording of Huguenots is a great demonstration of her phenomenal technique and ravishing dramatic soprano tone. From the bottom of the register to high E, she sings with complete ease. All staccatos, runs, and appoggios done to absolute perfection. And of course her legendary trill, trilling on notes way above the staff!!! As Franco Zeffirelli said, Joan is the phenomenal singer of our time, and of course she is that and more. But singing as wonderfully is the great tenor Franco Corelli. The role of Raul is perhaps one of the most difficult in the tenor's repertoire. And NO ONE can sing it like Corelli. His tone is ravishing, all high notes shot out of his mouth like a cannon ball. Especially stunning is the UNBELIEVABLE Grand Duet. Corelli's performance of that duet with the amazing Simionato is just INHUMAN!!!! Both singers soaring from high note to high note, ringing like no other two singers can. The high D-flats were the most thrilling notes. But the high B's and C's were awesome too. The recording of the Grand Duet must rank as one of the greatest recordings of spinto singing in history! Actually, this recording ranks as one of the greatest achievements in recording history. Bravissimi indeed! The sound isn't the best, but will you give up listening to one of the most astonishing singing ever recorded just because of audience noises. I hope not. This is an ABSOLUTE MUST for all opera fans. ---amazon.com

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