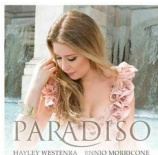


Ennio Morricone – Paradiso (Hayley Westenra) [2011]

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01. Gabriels Oboe 02. Cinema Paradiso [play](#) 03. La Califfa 04. Once Upon A Time In The West 05. Metti Una Sera A Cena 06. I Wonder Would 07. Per Natale 08. Deborah's Theme - I Knew I Loved 09. Lezione Di Musica 10. Da Quel Sorriso Che Non Ride Pi 11. The Edge Of Love [play](#) 12. Amalia Por Amor 13. Here's To You 14. Malena

Hayley Westenra – soprano Fausto Anzelmo - viola Gilda Buttà - piano Marco Serino - violin Luca Pincini - cello Orchestra Sinfonietta di Roma Ennio Morricone - conductor

Paradiso, a 2011 release from Decca, is a warm and mellow collaboration between popular vocalist Hayley Westenra and legendary composer Ennio Morricone, and this album is the kind of sweetly sung and smoothly scored music that classical crossover and easy listening fans can expect to enjoy. The 14 songs, which are drawn largely from Morricone's prolific body of film music, are freshly arranged and orchestrated with Westenra's light soprano voice ideally situated in her middle range against a soothing backdrop of the strings, woodwinds, and percussion of the Orchestra Sinfonietta di Roma. The arrangements are quite lush and warm throughout the program, with a consistency that tends to make one song blend easily into the next with scarcely any differentiation of mood, except for the upbeat bossa nova of Metti una sera a cena, the festive Per Natale (L'esprit de Noël), and the bright solfège song, Lezione di Musica. Two memorable themes that display Morricone's extraordinary gift for lyrical melodies are Cinema Paradiso's "Would He Even Know Me Now?" and "I Knew I Loved You (Deborah's Theme)" from Once Upon a Time in America, and they are highlights of this collection. This CD is recommended as a gentle and relaxing vocal album that will appeal to Westenra's loyal fans. Decca's reproduction is luxuriant and rich, but rather homogenous in texture and dynamics.

---Blair Sanderson, Rovi

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