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ADD

Rosa Ponselle

sings Verdi

The 1918-1928 Recordings

 Playing  
Time  
76:50

NAXOS Historical

PONSELLE: Verdi

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<b>ERNANI</b>	
1 Ernani! Ernani, involami	4:24
<b>I VESPRI SICILIANI</b>	
2 Mercè, dilette amiche	3:21
<b>IL TROVATORE</b>	
3 Tacea la notte placida	4:06
4 D'amor sull'ali rosee	3:40
5 Miserere	4:28
(with Giovanni Martinelli, Tenor and the Metropolitan Opera Chorus)	
6 Mira d'acerbe lagrime	4:10
(with Riccardo Stracciari, Baritone)	
<b>LA FORZA DEL DESTINO</b>	
7 Pace, pace, mio Dio	4:30
8 La vergine degli angeli	4:39
(with Enzo Pinza and the Metropolitan Opera Chorus)	
9 Io muoio! . . . Non imprecare, umiliati	8:08
(with Giovanni Martinelli, Tenor and Ezio Pinza, Bass)	
<b>AIDA</b>	
10 Ritorna vincitor	4:44
11 O patria mia	4:20
12 Pur ti riveggo. . . Là tra foreste vergini	7:58
(with Giovanni Martinelli, Tenor)	
13 La fatal pietra... O terra addio (with Giovanni Martinelli, Tenor)	9:26
<b>OTELLO</b>	
14 Piangea cantando nell'erma landa (Willow Song)	4:32
15 Ave Maria	4:24

Born in Connecticut in 1897, Rosa Ponzillo made her début at the Metropolitan Opera opposite Caruso in *La Forza del Destino*, beginning a twenty-season career with the company, and prompting a name change to Rosa Ponselle. The most famed soprano of her day, Ponselle is still adored by many as the greatest female singer of the twentieth century. The warmth and colour of her voice are wonderfully caught in these, her most memorable Verdi recordings, which show-case the splendours of her technique. Three extracts from *La Forza del Destino*, recorded in 1928, allow us to marvel at the voices of two other great Italians with whom Ponselle regularly appeared, Giovanni Martinelli and Ezio Pinza. Another of the many highlights is *O patria mia* from *Aida*, one of Ponselle's earliest surviving recordings, made exactly two weeks after her Met début.

Producer and Audio Restoration Engineer: Ward Marston  
Special Thanks to Lawrence F. Holdridge

[www.naxos.com](http://www.naxos.com)

A complete track list can be found in the booklet  
Cover image: Rosa Ponselle as Leonora from *La Forza del Destino*  
(Private Collection)


 MADE IN  
E.C.


PONSELLE: Verdi

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