

Emmerich Kalman – Die Csardasfurstin (2003)

Written by bluesever

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01. Act 1. No. 1. Lied. *Heia, heia, in den Bergen ist mein Heimatland* 02. Act 1. No. 2. Marsch-Ensemble. *Alle sind wir Sünder* 03. Act 1. No. 3. Duett. *Sylva, ich will nur dich* 04. Act 1. No. 4. Lied. *Aus ist's mit der Liebe (Ganz ohne Weiber geht die Chose nicht...)* 05. Act 1. No. 5. Lied (Ensemble). *O jog dem Glück nicht nach (Ja so ein Teufelsweib)* 06. Act 1. No. 6. Finale 1 07. Act 2. No. 7. Tanzwalzer. *Erstrahlen die Lichter* 08. Act 2. No. 8. Schwalbenduett. *Ich warte auf das große Wunder (Machten wir's den Schwalben nach)* 09. Act 2. No. 9. Duett. *Heller Jubel* 10. Act 2. No. 10. Quartett. *Liebchen, mich reißt es* 11. Act 2. No. 11. Duett. *Mädel guck (Das ist die Liebe, die dumme Liebe)* 12. Act 2. No. 12. Duett. *Tanzen möcht ich (Tausend kleine Engel)* 13. Act 2. No. 13. Finale 2 14. Act 3. No. 14. Terzett. *Jay Mamám* 15. Act 3. No. 16. Finale 3
Sylva Varescu: Martina Serafin Edwin Ronald: Ferdinand von Bothmer Komtesse Stasi: Kerstin Grotrian Graf Boni Káncsiánu: Adrian Eröd Leopold Fürst von und zu Lippert-Weylersheim: Harald Serafin Anhilte, seine Frau: Mirjana Irosch Feri von Kerekes (Feri Bácsi): Frigyes Harsányi General Rohnsdorff: Michael Gampe Notar Kiss: Gottfried Falkenstein Festival Orchestra Morbisch Morbisch Festival Choir Dirigent Rudolf Bibl

This production of Emmerich Kálmán's *Die Csárdásfürstin* (The Gypsy Princess) is part of a series of recorded operettas presented by Seefestspiele Mörbisch, or in English, The Mörbisch Lake Festival, on the Oehms Classics label. Mörbisch Lake is a picaresque Austrian town near the Hungarian border that hosts an annual operetta festival in an open-air amphitheater capable of seating 6,000 operetta lovers. The festival, under the artistic direction of Harald Serafin, is swiftly becoming the Bayreuth of the operetta world, attracting some 200,000 visitors annually, but still can see the value of recording the productions for the benefit of attracting still more patrons. Judging from this 2002 recording of *Die Csárdásfürstin*, made in a studio environment, the standards of musical performance at Mörbisch Lake are high indeed and could hold pride of place, comparatively, with those at Bayreuth, if not exceed them altogether.

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The singing is all around very good; there are no stand-alone performances among the cast, but as a whole, they work together well and don't get in each other's way. In order to get Die Csárdásfürstin onto a single disc, there is some subtle trimming of the score as recorded, yet it doesn't remove anything essential and keeps the work running at a good clip -- a few lines of dialogue are kept in order to maintain progression of the plot.

The Festival Orchestra Mörbisch under Rudolph Bibl is a bit scrappy in the fast music, yet some scrappiness does not at all hurt Die Csárdásfürstin and this may, at least in part, be intentional. Throughout Die Csárdásfürstin the band maintains a nice rhythmic energy and good sense of color. The recorded sound is clear, direct, and immediate. The booklet contains no more than a summary of the plot in English, although this is standard for most operetta recordings.

The fortunes of Die Csárdásfürstin seem to be looking up these days -- this is the second recording of the work to come up in a month's time. It's good to have choices, and for Die Csárdásfürstin this Oehms Classics disc is as good a choice as one could want. ---Uncle Dave Lewis, Rovi

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