

Maria Callas Live in London 1958 and 1959 [2002]

Written by bluesever

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01. *Vissi d'arte* [Giacomo Puccini - *Tosca*, Act II] [play](#)
02. *Una voce poco fa* [Gioachino Rossini - *Il barbiere di Siviglia*, Act I]
03. *Casta diva* [Vincenzo Bellini - *Norma*, Act I]
04. *Un bel di vedremo* [Giacomo Puccini - *Madama butterfly*, Act II] [play](#)
05. *Sì. Mi chiamano Mimì* [Giacomo Puccini - *La bohème*, Act I]
06. *L'altra notte in fondo al mare* [Arrigo Boito - *Mefistofele*, Act II]
07. *Una macchia è qui tuttora* [Giuseppe Verdi - *Macbeth*, Act IV]
08. *Oh! s'io potessi dissipar le nubi* [Vincenzo Bellini - *Il Pirata*, Act II]

London Symphony Orchestra
Nicola Rescigno – conductor

The sound really gets in the way on this disc. In fact, it is terrible. Still, it is worth listening as hard as you can in order to take in Callas' truly nightmarish Sleepwalking Scene from *Macbeth*. Puccini was only infrequently included in her recital programs; here we have her *Tosca*, *Mimì*, and *Butterfly*, and Callas sounds a little uncomfortable in the last of these. Even "Casta diva" no longer sounds as secure as it did previously. Callas' vocal difficulties, including wobbling high notes, became more troublesome as the 1950s progressed, and there is ample evidence of them here. Still, in the scenes from *Macbeth*, *Mefistofele*, and *Il pirata* ("Oh! s'io potessi dissipar le nubi") we hear how Callas' ability to realize a role's dramatic potential fully became more powerful, the more that the voice itself was compromised.

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