

Renée Fleming - By Request (2003)

Written by bluesever

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01. *Gianni Schicchi*, opera *O mio babbino caro* by Giacomo Puccini
02. *La Wally*, opera (dramma musicale) in 4 acts *Ebben? ... Ne andrò lontana* by Alfredo Catalani
03. *Le nozze di Figaro* (*The Marriage of Figaro*), opera, K. 492 *Porgi, amor* by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
04. *Così fan tutte*, opera, K. 588 *Come scoglio* by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
05. *Norma*, opera *Casta diva* by Vincenzo Bellini
06. *La Traviata*, opera *È strano ... Ah, fors'è lui ... Sempre libera* by Giuseppe Verdi
07. *Madama Butterfly* (*Madame Butterfly*), opera *Un bel dì vedremo* by Giacomo Puccini
08. *Manon*, comic opera in 5 acts *Je marche sur tous les chemins ... Obéissons quand leur voix appelle* (*Gavotte*) by Jules Massenet
09. *Rusalka*, opera, B. 203 (*Op. 114*) *Mesícku na nebi hlubokém* (*O silver moon*) by Antonin Dvorak
10. *Vocalise*, song for voice & piano, *Op. 34/14* by Sergey Rachmaninov
11. *Cäcilie* ("*Wenn du es wüsstest*"), song for voice & piano (or orchestra), *Op. 27/2* (*TrV 170/2*) by Richard Strauss
12. *Die tote Stadt* (*The Dead City*), opera, *Op. 12* *Glück, das mir vervlieb* (*Mariettas Lied*) by Erich Wolfgang Korngold
13. *Porgy and Bess*, opera *Summertime* by George Gershwin
14. *Bachianas Brasileiras No. 5*, for voice & piano, A. 390 *Aria* (*Cantilena*) by Heitor Villa-Lobos
15. *You'll Never Walk Alone*, song (from "*Carousel*") by Richard Rodgers

Renée Fleming – soprano Joseph Calleja – tenor Dave Grusin – piano Lee Ritenour – guitar
London Voices New York Voices English Chamber Orchestra London Philharmonic Orchestra
London Symphony Orchestra Metropolitan Opera Orchestra Orchestra of St. Luke's Charles
Mackerras – conductor Georg Solti - conductor Patrick Summers – conductor Jeffrey Tate -
conductor

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This Renée Fleming disc, *By Request*, is mostly a compilation of previously released material. There are three new tracks, "Ah fors' è lui" from Giuseppe Verdi's *La Traviata*, the song "Cécille" by Richard Strauss, and "You'll Never Walk Alone" from Rogers & Hammerstein's musical *Carousel*. The new recordings all sound fine, and Fleming is outstanding in the re-issued pieces as well. If you have the prior incarnations of these recordings, you may elect to pass on this collection unless you want the three new tracks. However, if you are unfamiliar with the voice of Fleming, *By Request* will prove an excellent and wholly satisfactory vehicle for getting to know her work. The recording is up to Decca's usual high standards, and the booklet includes several attractive photos of Fleming in addition to complete texts and translations for all of the lyrics sung. --- Uncle Dave Lewis, Rovi

This is a compilation--plus three previously unreleased selections--of some of the glorious Renée Fleming's finest work, 15 selections covering 13 composers. The rose-in-full-bloom quality of the voice is staggeringly beautiful: Her rendition of Rusalka's "Song to the Moon" is justly famous and is, alone, worth the price of this CD. Other highlights are Marietta's Lied from Korngold's *Die tote Stadt*, an odd arrangement of the aria from Villa-Lobos's *Bachianas Brasileiras No. 5*, Manon's *Gavotte*, and a knock-down-gorgeous reading of Gershwin's "Summertime." The three new recordings are of Violetta's big first-act scene from *La traviata*, which features one of the most perfect trills heard since Joan Sutherland, a thrilling *Cécilie* (R. Strauss), and a version of "You'll Never Walk Alone" which is so over-the-top that it might make you look away in embarrassment. On the basis of this CD, one would have to acknowledge that Fleming is more interested in--and more successful at--pure singing than she is at character delineation (*Butterfly* sounds oddly like *Wally* who sounds too much like *Norma*), but it's not hard to tell why she's a superstar. Her voice and technique are one in a million. --Robert Levine, amazon.com

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