

Suppé – Boccaccio (Boskovsky) [2001]



Disc: 1 1. Ov - Bayerisches SO/Willi Boskovsky 2. Act One: Nr.1: Heut' Am Tag Des Patrons Von Florenz - Gunter Wewel/Walter Berry/Chor Der Bayerischen Staatsoper Munchen/Wolfgang Baumgart 3. Act One: Nr.2: Neu'ste Novellen - Bruno Pola/Chor Der Bayerischen Staatsoper Munchen/Wolfgang Baumgart 4. Act One: Dialog - Friedrich Lenz/Adolf Dallapozza/Edda Moser/Hermann Prey/Walter Berry/Chor Der Bayerischen... 5. Act One: Nr.3: Holde Schone, Hor Diese Tone - - Friedrich Lenz/Adolf Dallapozza/Edda Moser/Hermann Prey/Walter Berry/Chor Der Bayerischen... 6. Act One: Nr.3: Weh Mir! Zu Hilfe! - - Friedrich Lenz/Adolf Dallapozza/Edda Moser/Hermann Prey/Walter Berry/Chor Der Bayerischen... 7. Act One: Nr.3: Warte Nur, Ich Frikassiere Dich, Du Bube! - Friedrich Lenz/Adolf Dallapozza/Edda Moser/Hermann Prey/Walter Berry/Chor Der Bayerischen... 8. Act One: Nr.3: Dialog - Hermann Prey/Walter Berry/Chor Der Bayerischen Staatsoper Munchen/Wolfgang Baumgart 9. Act One: Nr.4: Ich Sehe Einen Jungen Mann Dort Stehn - Hermann Prey/Walter Berry/Chor Der Bayerischen Staatsoper Munchen/Wolfgang Baumgart 10. Act One: Nr.4: Dialog - Anneliese Rothenberger/Gisela Litz 11. Act One: Nr.5: Die Glocken Lauten Hell Und Rein - Anneliese Rothenberger/Gisela Litz 12. Act One: Nr.5: Dialog - Anneliese Rothenberger/Hermann Prey 13. Act One: Nr.6: Hab' ich Nur Deine Liebe - Anneliese Rothenberger/Hermann Prey 14. Act One: Nr.6: Dialog - Hermann Prey/Anneliese Rothenberger 15. Act One: Nr.7: Ein Armer Blinder Flehet Um Erbarmen - Nur Ein Wort - Hermann Prey/Anneliese Rothenberger 16. Act One: Nr.7: Dialog - Adolf Dallapozza/Friedrich Lenz/Kurt Bohme/Edda Moser/Walter Berry/Willi Brokmeier/Hermann Prey... 17. Act One: Nr.8: Ehrsame Burger Dieser Stadt - - Adolf Dallapozza/Friedrich Lenz/Kurt Bohme/Edda Moser/Walter Berry/Willi Brokmeier/Hermann Prey... 18. Act One: Nr.8: Herr Barbier, Herr Barbier! - - Adolf Dallapozza/Friedrich Lenz/Kurt Bohme/Edda Moser/Walter Berry/Willi Brokmeier/Hermann Prey... 19. Act One: Nr.8: Neu'ste Novellen - Was Wir Verdammen - Adolf Dallapozza/Friedrich Lenz/Kurt Bohme/Edda Moser/Walter Berry/Willi Brokmeier/Hermann Prey...

Disc: 2 1. Act Two: Nr.9: Beim Liebchen, Beim Liebchen - Hermann Prey/Walter Berry/Willi Brokmeier 2. Act Two: Nr.9: Dialog - Hermann Prey/Willi Brokmeier/Walter Berry 3. Act Two: Nr.10: Ein Stern Zu Sein, Wie Wurd' Das Mich Beglucken - Hermann Prey/Willi Brokmeier/Walter Berry 4. Act Two: Nr.10: Dialog - Adolf Dallapozza/Chor Der Bayerischen Staatsoper Munchen/Wolfgang Baumgart 5. Act Two: Nr.11: Tagtaglich Zankt Mein Weib-Tralalala - Adolf Dallapozza/Chor Der Bayerischen Staatsoper Munchen/Wolfgang Baumgart 6. Act Two: Nr.11: Dialog - Anneliese Rothenberger/Kari Lovaas/Gisela Litz 7. Act Two: Nr.12: Wie Pocht Mein Herz So Ungestum - Wonnevolle Kunde, Neu Belebend - Anneliese Rothenberger/Kari Lovaas/Gisela Litz 8. Act Two: Nr.12: Dialog - Hermann

Prey/Anneliese Rothenberger/Friedrich Lenz/Adolf Dallapozza/Kari Lovaas/Willi Brokmeier... 9. Act Two: Nr.15: Benutzen Wir Den Augenblick - - Hermann Prey/Anneliese Rothenberger/Friedrich Lenz/Adolf Dallapozza/Kari Lovaas/Willi Brokmeier... 10. Act Two: Nr.15: Lambertuccio! Lambertuccio! - Wart Nur, Wir Lehren Dich Erzahlen - - Hermann Prey/Anneliese Rothenberger/Friedrich Lenz/Adolf Dallapozza/Kari Lovaas/Willi Brokmeier... 11. Act Two: Nr.15: Wonnevolle Kunde, Neu Belebend - Hermann Prey/Anneliese Rothenberger/Friedrich Lenz/Adolf Dallapozza/Kari Lovaas/Willi Brokmeier... 12. Act Three: Dialog - Friedrich Lenz 13. Act Three: Nr.17: Um Des Fursten Zorn Zu Meiden - Friedrich Lenz 14. Act Three: Nr.17: Dialog - Hermann Prey/Anneliese Rothenberger 15. Act Three: Nr.18: Fiorenz Hat Schone Frauen - Hermann Prey/Anneliese Rothenberger 16. Act Three: Nr.18: Dialog - Hermann Prey/Adolf Dallapozza/Friedrich Lenz/Kurt Bohme/Edda Moser/Kari Lovaas/Willi Brokmeier... 17. Act Three: Nr.19: Ihr Toren, Ihr Wollt Hassen Mich - Der Witz, Die Laune, Die Wahrheit - Hermann Prey/Adolf Dallapozza/Friedrich Lenz/Kurt Bohme/Edda Moser/Kari Lovaas/Willi Brokmeier.
Anneliese Rothenberger
(Soprano) Walter Berry (Bass Baritone) Kurt Böhme (Bass Baritone) Adolf Dallapozza (Tenor)
Kari Lövaas (Soprano) Edda Moser (Soprano) Willi Brokmeier (Tenor) Friedrich Lenz (Tenor)
Gisela Litz (Mezzo Soprano), Bruno Pola (Baritone) Günter Wewel (Bass) Hermann Prey
(Baritone) Bavarian State Opera Chorus Bavarian Symphony Orchestra Willi Boskovsky –
conductor

Though its overture may be a little less seldom played than half a dozen or so others, Boccaccio holds the distinction of being Suppé's most successful operetta. Produced in Vienna in 1879 (between *Fledermaus* and *Zigeunerbaron*), it has a libretto by the leading Viennese librettists F. Zell and Richard Genée revolving around the celebrated Italian poet. Like Offenbach's *Hoffmann*, who took the stage two years later, Suppé's *Boccaccio* finds himself up against adversity, in this case forced to disguise himself as a beggar and watch his books being burned. Also mirroring Offenbach's opera is the central act in which Boccaccio appears as a character in one of his stories; but unlike Offenbach's opera (and thus underlying the essence of operetta) our hero here gets his girl in the end—in this case Fiametta, illegitimate daughter of the Duke of Tuscany.

Musically the piece is less what we naturally think of as Viennese operetta than an extension of the style of Suppé's overtures. The occasional waltz seems to crop up purely accidentally, and the sprightly and rumbustious mood of the overture spreads over into a score full of racy and boisterous melodies. There are naturally some quieter moments, among them perhaps the most widely known individual number from the score, Fiametta's "Hab' ich nur deine Liebe", but these are hardly typical of the work. Suppé sounds much more at home when a lot is happening, and there are pages and pages of extended ensembles with large scale choruses and ambitious part writing.

Back in the 1950s there was a single record of excerpts from the operetta with a strong Vienna Volksoper cast directed by Anton Paulik (Philips NBL5026, 2/56—nla). Then much of the extended writing had to go, so that this two-disc set, originally issued in Germany in 1975, gives a far better idea of the work and generally surpasses it in every conceivable way. Even with 1 hour 50 minutes' playing time and a minimum of dialogue, though, not everything can be accommodated, so that three short numbers in Acts 2 and 3 have had to be omitted.

What remains is truly splendidly done. This is very much a work dominated by male characters, since originally the role of Boccaccio himself was played by a woman. Electrola have sensibly allocated it to a baritone and have assembled a strong male cast right down to Walter Berry (a survivor from the 1950s recording, incidentally) in the small role of a student. Hermann Prey gives for me one of his most compelling performances in the title role, his famous "Das ist doch jedem klar" sung with a finely judged gentle charm. Adolf Dallapozza and Friedrich Lenz make appealing tenor tradesmen in Act 2, the former's "Cooper's Song" most excellently sung with its chorus of journeymen beating time with their hammers as they sing. At the lower end of the male vocal range are attractively weighty contributions from Günter Wewel as a beggar and Kurt Böhme as a barber with a Don Giovannistyle serenade to sing. Anneliese Rothenberger was not in the purest of voices even in 1975, but, as I have indicated, the women's contribution is small and she and Edda Moser do what is required of them admirably enough.

In such a naturally lively work much depends on the conductor, and happily Willi Boskovsky maintains the momentum and high spirits of the score superbly well. There is a good sense of spread in the recording, and altogether this ranks as another highly recommendable recording in Electrola's splendid operetta series.-- Gramophone [12/1980], arkivmusic.com

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