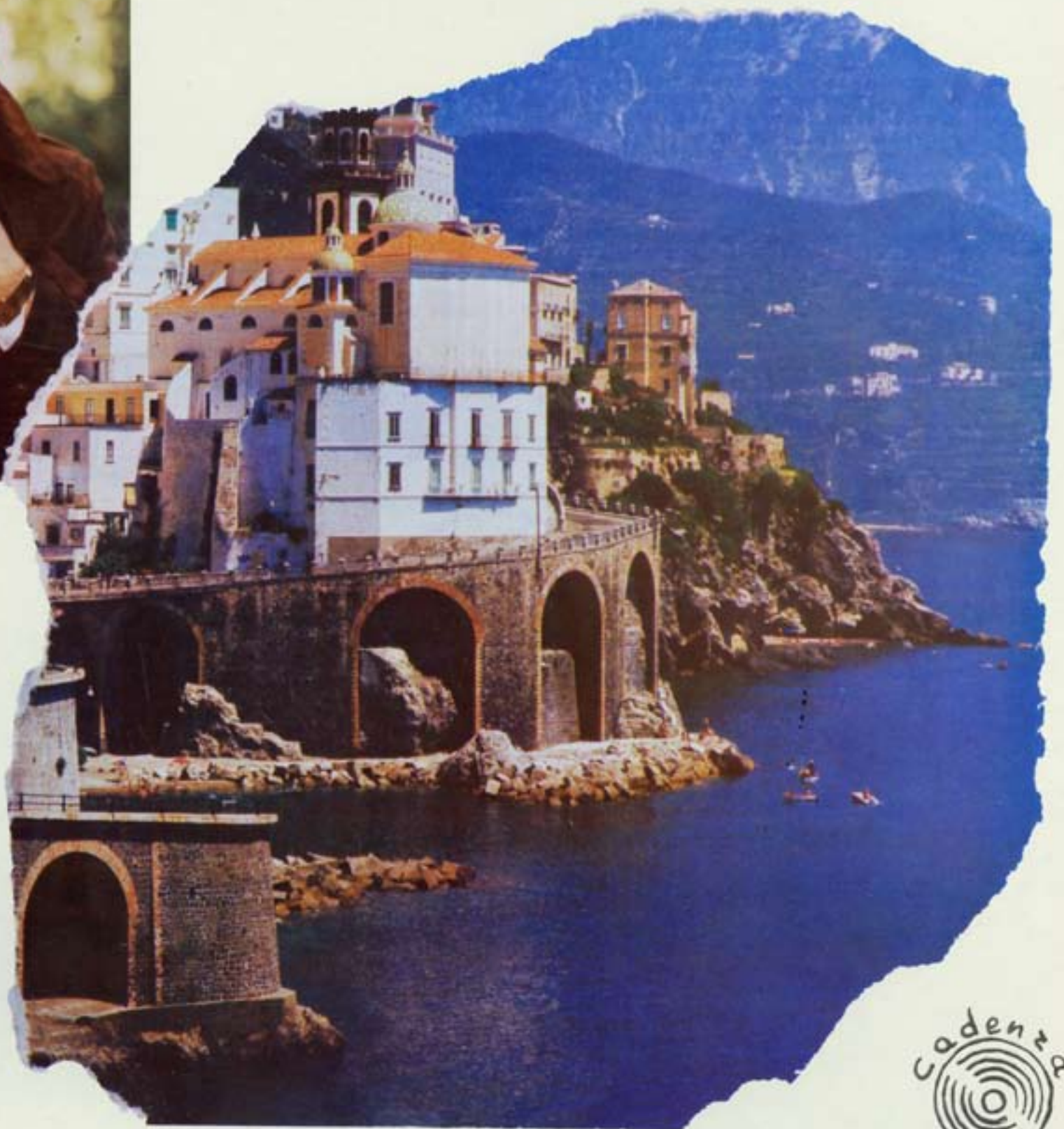


Come Back to Sorrento



with
Louis
Danto



LR 102

COME BACK TO SORRENTO

with LOUIS DANTO



LOUIS DANTO, one of the world's most beautiful-voiced cantors, now makes his home in Toronto, Canada. Cantor Danto in September 1984, sang before Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip in Toronto's Maple Leaf Gardens to an inter-faith audience of 16,000 and millions of television viewers. Her Majesty was most impressed with Cantor Danto's richly regal singing.

Cantor Danto was born in Suwalki, Poland. Like other Polish lyric legends such as the De Reszke brothers and Jan Kiepura, Louis Danto follows in their Bel Canto footsteps. Praised by such immortals as Gigli and Schipa while a student in Rome, Louis Danto has concertized throughout the world — all appearances receiving both critical and audience acclamation. In December 1965, Louis Danto chanted a special prayer at Tito Schipa's funeral in New York at the request of the family, with noted Metropolitan Opera stars in attendance. George Jellinek, a distinguished broadcaster and music critic for Stereo Review had this to say about Cantor Danto's album "The Art of Cantor Louis Danto" — "... the technique and overall control Cantor Louis Danto displays on this record, no tenor under contract to a major U.S. opera company today can duplicate." Another hard-to-please critic, Alan Rich of the New York Times, raved after a Carnegie Hall recital by Cantor Danto ... "a voice of great beauty, clear and true ... breathtaking, radiant, as though from another world."

Most of the melodies in this album have been recorded by familiar as well as unfamiliar tenors of the past and present — and in many languages. However, Louis Danto gives them a distinctive and disarming interpretation, treating the music with feeling, flair and freshness. For non-Neapolitans, which includes Italians as well, the songs of Naples are perhaps the most dialectically difficult to characterize. Louis Danto sings them as if Sorrento and not Suwalki was his native town!

LEV KOGAN was born in Soviet Russia. He graduated from the Music Academy of Moscow with distinction. He was a student in the class of the famous composer Khatchaturian.

Among the various works which he created in Moscow were: 4 compositions for Ballet, 6 Musicals, Symphonic works, Chamber music and Songs. All these works were frequently broadcast on Moscow radio and television. At the same time Lev Kogan devoted a lot of his time to research and creation of Jewish music.

With such a remarkable background Lev Kogan arrived in Israel. There he continues his musical career with great success as composer and teacher. His music is performed in theaters and concert halls in the U.S.A., Mexico, Canada, France etc.

Lev Kogan is the musical director of all the performances given by Ethel Kovensky.

Canadian-born Conductor/Composer **VOLTR IVONOFFSKI** has appeared with numerous orchestras of international calibre, including l'Orchestre de la Suisse Romande, The Netherlands Radio Philharmonic, The Danish State Radio Symphony. He has been Musical Director for the National Tour of the Stratford Festival of Canada, has conducted opera at the Spoleto Festival and at the Banff Centre for the Arts. In 1976, at the invitation of the Government of Ontario he became Music Consultant for the Ontario Ministry of Culture.

His mentors have included such illustrious conductors as Paul Kletzki, Ernest Ansermet, Charles Munch, Walter Susskind, Franco Ferrara and Hans Swarowsky. Maestro Ivonoffski has worked with such composers as Aaron Copland, Lukas Foss, Luciano Berio, John Cage Samuel Dolin and Oskar Morawetz.

ALDO MAGGIOROTTI, writer and broadcaster, was born in Genoa Italy, and has lived in Toronto since the age of six. A long-standing opera and film buff, he has made his hobbies a vocation as well — recently retired from Warner Bros. Film Distributors and currently writer-producer and host of "Aldo's World of Singing" on C-H-I-N FM Sunday evenings, playing recordings of famous and not so famous singers of the past and present.

SIDE A

SERENATA D'AMORE — Love's Serenade (*First recorded performance*) — *Julius Chayes (Giulio Chiari)*. Composer Chayes adopted the Italianate name to avoid Nazi capture during the German invasion of Austria in 1938. He and his wife now live in Detroit, Michigan. His one and only song written to an Italian text tells of a supplicant serenader under the balcony of his sleeping sweetheart ... "console me with one sweet word".

FENESTA CHE LUCIVE — That Light in the Window — attributed to *Vincenzo Bellini*, the master of Bel Canto, tells the sad tale of a lover's shock when he learns that the light in his beloved's window shines no longer — she is dead and buried. The stricken lover longs to die and lie beside her.

MAL D'AMORE — Love Sickness (*Buzzi-Peccia*) — The composer of the lilting "Lolita" is more romantically retrospective and rueful ... "I have a wound in my heart that can no longer be healed". His light of love has darkened his thoughts ... she has run away. This plaintive song was featured in Joseph Schmidt's film "My Song Goes Round The World".

MATTINATA — Morning Serenade (*Leoncavallo*). — This perennial favourite by the composer of *I Pagliacci*, was once a North American hit under the title "You're Breaking My Heart". The serenader implores the girl of his dreams to come out in a white dress and "open the door to her singer ... when you are not there, neither is light, but when you appear, so does love".

I TE VURRIA VASA — I Want to Kiss You (*Di Capua*) — written by the composer of "O Sole Mio". A Neapolitan's romantic restraint — the singer's sweetheart is asleep on a carpet of leaves and rose-petals. At sunrise the garden slowly lightens — the breeze caresses and kisses a curl on her brow — "How I would love to kiss you ... but I have not the heart to wake you".

ADDIO BEL SOGNO (*De Burtis*) — Featured in Beniamino Gigli's first film "Forget-Me-Not". "I love you! You love me and the world is taking you away ... may you find peace, I shall be as dead for you. Farewell sweet dream of light and life ... dream of love that fate has destroyed".

LA ROMANINA (*Lazzaro*) — The little Roman girl singing her way through the streets captures everyone's heart.

SIDE B

LOLITA (*Buzzi-Peccia*) — "A wounded heart wants to sing its song to you ... it wants to tell you its anguish ... the pain that only Lolita can relieve".

PISCATORE E' PUSILLECO (*Tagliaferri*) — On the romantic waters of Pusilleco, the fisherman is thinking of other activities besides fishing. A now standard Neapolitan love song.

CORE 'NGRATO — Ungrateful Heart (*Cardillo*) Unrequited love, Neapolitan-style. "Catherine, why are you saying these wounding words to me? Do not forget that I gave you my heart ... but you do not care, it means nothing to you. Ungrateful heart, for you it is finished and forgotten".

VAGHISSIMA SEMBIANZA — Vague Recollections (*Donaudy*) — A classic ballad written by a 19th century composer in the style of a much earlier period.

NON TI SCORDAR DI ME (*De Curtis*) — The title tune from Gigli's "Forget-Me-Not" (1935). "My little swallow left without a kiss or even a goodbye ... do not forget me, my life is linked to yours ... there will always be a nest in my heart for you ... forget me not!"

TORNA A SORRENTO — Come Back to Sorrento (*De Curtis*) — Together with "O Sole Mio", perhaps the two most internationally popular of Neapolitan songs. A lover's plea to his beloved not to leave him and Sorrento ... "do not torment me this way, return to Sorrento so that I may live again!"

TIRITOMBA (*Anonymous*) — Yet another melody from "My Song Goes Round The World" — this tarantella-like Neapolitan dance tune finds the lover by the shore seeking his 'innamorata'.

Orchestra under the Direction of: **VOLTR IVONOFFSKI**
Musical Arrangements: **LEV KOGAN**
Sound Engineer: **VALENTINE SKOBLO**
Notes and Translations: **ALDO MEGGIOROTTI**
Photographer: **BEN ADLER**
Cover: **ROUHAMA DANTO**
Recorded at **SEPTIMA RECORDINGS LTD.**
Downsview, Ontario

Dedicated to my wife Rouhama and my children Annette, Denise and David with love, for their inspiration.