

LUISA TETRAZZINI - THE FLORENTINE NIGHTINGALE

A BIOGRAPHY BY CHARLES NEILSON GATTEY

Its author has spent many years of research in Europe, America and Russia and reveals for the first time extraordinary true facts about the diva Patti named as her successor. Reviewing Charles Neilson Gattey's *Queens of Song*, Philip Hope-Wallace wrote in *Opera*: - *'This excellent book will delight all interested in opera. It is sensible, factual, highly readable, does not neglect anecdotes. ... Everywhere the tone is right, imaginative and just. ... Most valuable.'*

Tetrazzini's long career made her a celebrity on three continents; her temperament and personality were the stuff of which legends are made. The 'Florentine Nightingale' triumphed in Rome, Buenos Aires, St. Petersburg, the Crimea, and the Ukraine, Caruso wanted to marry her. She toured Mexico and from there went on to conquer the United States. After initial refusals by Covent Garden to let her sing, she was allowed to appear out of season in Melba's absence; her debut was sensational, and she was heralded as 'the voice of the century' by a major critic. Engaged by Oscar Hammerstein I to sing at his new Manhattan Opera House, she became as he said his 'stars of stars' until after a bitter law suit she defied him by singing in the open air on Christmas Eve in San Francisco to a quarter of a million people. And so it went on, a life eventful until the last.

This first biography of Tetrazzini includes a detailed chronology, her repertoire, a comprehensive discography, notes, critical assessments of her talents, a bibliography and index. The resurgence of her recordings on CDs has aroused new interest in a singer Victor Gollancz described as 'the most brilliant and lively of the coloraturas I have ever heard'.

400 pages. 16 pages of illustrations. Hardback - £29.50.

ISBN: 1 859 28 010 2

SCOLAR PRESS, GOWER HOUSE, CROFT ROAD, ALDERSHOT, GU11 3HR.
TEL: 01252 331551. FAX: 01252 344405. Available direct from them, plus £2.50 for postage and packing., or through booksellers.

"A great biography." LORD HAREWOOD, Chairman of the Historic Singers Trust.

"A triumph of research." KEN DAVISON, Founder Editor of Covent Garden's *About The House*.

"The discography and extensive chronology are invaluable. The 'Florentine Nightingale' sent me back to my Tetrazzini recordings - she did indeed sing like an angel." STEPHANIE VON BUCHAU in *OPERA NEWS* (New York).

"Endlessly entertaining." PAUL THOMASON, SAN FRANCISCO BAY REPORTER.

"This biography (the first) is exemplary." CHARLES OSBORNE in *THE SPECTATOR*.

"Gattey traces every aspect of her professional career, and touches on much of a private life that would have present-day tabloid editors drooling." NOEL GOODWIN in *OPERA NOW*.

"A fascinating work which is a 'must' for all those interested in the life story of one of the great names in operatic history." JOHN FREESTONE in *RECORD COLLECTOR*.

"Gattey and his publishers have done the great singer proud. Those interested had better snap this one up while they can." RICHARD LAW in *OPERA* (December 1995)