

Gigli's Non-Commercial Discography: Part 3—Documentary

This part of this discography consists of documentary comments and short interviews from the second half of Beniamino Gigli's career.

38.D01

6 November, this short talk to the Italian community in California was recorded at Network Studios in San Francisco.

LP: EMI Italiana 153-54010-17;

48.D01

? Gigli gives various impromptu remarks to his public in Brazil. None of the item dates have been confirmed on either of the two LPs that contain them. They are not mentioned in the Ricaldone timeline either.

LP: SCALA SC 856; Et 740

49.D01

22 July, Gigli sings two songs ("Canzone della formica" and "Mamma") in his hometown of Recanati and prefaced them with some remarks about the songs. Please see **49.03** in Part 1 of this discography for details of the recording.

51.D01

16 August, Gigli makes comments to a radio interviewer in his dressing room after Act I of *La forza del destino*.

LP: EMI Italiana 153-54010-17; EJS 380;

NOTE: The EMI disc contains only Gigli's remarks. The EJS disc includes the interviewer as well. The full details of this performance are at **51.04** in Part 1 of this discography.

52.D01

10 February, Gigli is interviewed by Betty Burnett of Swedish Radio. The interview lasts just over seven minutes and takes place in the dressing room at the Royal Opera in Stockholm, just before his last performance of *Tosca*.

CD: FUGA 9172

52.D02

13 September, in an interview with Mariella Guidotti at the "Festa di Piedigrotta," Gigli talks about how to sing a Neapolitan song. This interview, on RAI, took place the day after a concert of Neapolitan song in Naples with Gigli, Pina Malgarini, and Giuseppe Taddei at the Arena Flegrea.

LP: TIMA 69/70; EJS 513; CD: CLAMA CD-5

NOTE: Some sources give the date as 14 September; however, the concert took place on 12 September, as Gigli was heading back to Recanati on 14 September for a concert on 15 September.

52.D03

31 October, Gigli makes a short thank-you speech for the audience after a BBC broadcast at the BBC Concert Hall. The concert was conducted by Stanford Robinson.

LP: EJS 336; CD: NAXOS 8.558148-51; EKLIPSE EKRC-21;

NOTE: Please note **52.04** in Part 1 of this discography has the full details of this broadcast recording. This BBC recording was recorded on the date shown but not broadcast until 25 December 1952.

54.D01

29 August, Gigli at his hometown of Recanati to celebrate 40 years of singing. Gigli spoke, and sang four songs. To celebrate the occasion, Luigi Flamini, then mayor of Recanati, also spoke.

CD: DC Collection

NOTE: Gigli sings four songs and gives several short speeches. Please note that in Part 1 of the discography, at **54.01**, there are two songs listed that have been already been published. The other two, “Se vuoi goder la vita” and “Mamma,” remain unpublished. There is, however, some doubt about the May date as originally listed in on the TIMA discs. Inzaghi also lists May for the recordings, but 29 August for this celebration. Ricaldone lists a broadcast by RAI on that August date, after Gigli’s visit to Trieste which he mentions in one of his speeches.

55.D01

15 February, Gigli meets with and is asked questions by students of the Musical Academy in Vienna. This *lezione di canto* lasted just over 25 minutes and was recorded. It offers some striking insights into Gigli’s singing—how he used the diaphragm and why his diction and expression was so clear.

CD: BONGIOVANNI GB 1055-56;

55.D02

17 March, Gigli is recorded counting playing cards and singing snatches of songs.

LP: ANNA 1027;

55.D03

19 March, while in Manchester for his last concert, Gigli records a few remarks, both in Italian and English, for the BBC as a farewell to the United Kingdom. They were broadcast on 20 March, the day of that concert.

LP: EMI Italiana 153-54010-17; EMBER GVC 1; CD: DC collection

55.D04

17 April, Gigli gives a short radio interview with Ruby Mercer. This has not been released officially as yet.

CD: DC collection

NOTE: This interview takes place just before the first of his three recitals at Carnegie Hall in New York.

57.D01

22 September, Gigli attends the prize day of the third international singing competition in the town of Fabriano. Some of his remarks were recorded.

LP: EMI Italiana 153-54010-17;

David Cutler: June 2021