

Gigli's Non-Commercial Discography: Part 2—Soundtrack Recordings

With his multiple appearances in the cinemas of Europe and the United States, Gigli succeeded in his aim of bringing classical music to the widest possible audience.

Please note, where there is an accessible DVD of any of this material, I have tried to list them in the **NOTES**. An addendum with links to illustrate some of the items below is also included.

27.F01

4 April, the first public presentation was coupled with the premiere of the movie, "When a Man Loves," at the Selwyn Theatre in New York City, 3 February 1927. The feature was recorded at the Manhattan Opera House, with the Metropolitan Opera chorus and the Vitaphone Symphony Orchestra conducted by Herman Heller. Vitaphone Varieties number 415.

***Rigoletto* (Verdi)**

Cast: Marion Talley (Gilda); BG (Duca di Mantova); Giuseppe de Luca (Rigoletto); Jeanne Gordon (Maddalena);

- a) Act IV: Un di se ben ...
- b) Act IV: Bella figlia

LP: EJS 403 (a-c); CD: GOP 804 (a-b); CAMCD-1080 (a-b); URANIA URN 22.376 (a-b);

NOTE: The above and all the 1927-28 recordings are part of the series of film shorts, Vitaphone Varieties, which were shown in cinemas with other feature films. These were among the first "talkie" (sound) films made. The initial date ascribed is the copyright date and not the recording date. Further information has been added where known.

27.F02

5 April, first shown at the Colony Theatre, New York. Recorded at the Manhattan Opera House, with the Metropolitan Opera chorus and the Vitaphone Symphony Orchestra conducted by Herman Heller. Vitaphone Varieties number 414.

***Cavalleria Rusticana* (Mascagni)**

Cast: BG (Turridu); Millo Picco (Alfio); Minnie Egner (Mamma Lucia)

- a) Intanto amici qua
- b) A voi tutte salute
- c) Addio alla madre

LP: EJS 464 (a-c); PEARL GEMM 202-206 (a-c); CD: GOP 804 (a-c); URANIA URN 22.376 (a-c);

27.F03

30 April, first shown in New York on 28 May 1927. With the Vitaphone Symphony Orchestra conducted by Herman Heller. Vitaphone Varieties number 499.

Lucia di Lammermoor (Donizetti)

Cast: BG (Edgardo); Marion Talley (Lucia)

- a) Act I: Sulla tomba
- b) Act I: Veranno a te sull'aure

LP: EJS 403 (a-b); PEARL GEMM 202-206 (a-c); CD: GOP 804 (a-b); BONGIOVANNI GB 1189-91 (a-b); URANIA URN 22.376 (a-b); CAMCD-1080 (a-b)

NOTE: This duet is cut. It also seems the video no longer exists for this Vitaphone.

27.F04

6 May, first shown at the Colony Theatre, New York in late June. These songs were with piano accompaniment by Vito Carnevali. Vitaphone Varieties number 498. The title was "A program of concert favourites."

- a) Mirame asi
- b) *Bergère légère*
- c) Come, Love, With Me
- d) O sole mio

LP: EJS 464 (a-d);

27.F05

29 June, first shown at the Warners Theatre, New York on 21 June 1927. With the Vitaphone Symphony Orchestra conducted by Herman Heller. Vitaphone Varieties number 517.

La gioconda (Ponchielli)

Cast: BG (Enzo)

- a) Act II: Sia gloria ai canti
- b) Act II: Cielo e mar

LP: EJS 111 (a-b); RHAPSODY RHA6017 (b); CD: GOP 804 (a-b); IMMORTAL PERFORMANCES IPCD 1034-5 (a-b); URANIA URN 22.376 (a-b); BONGIOVANNI GB 1189-91 (b)

28.F01

15 March, this duet was first seen at the Warners' Theatre, New York City, on 14 March 1928 with the Warner Brothers' feature film *Tenderloin*. With the Vitaphone Symphony Orchestra conducted by Herman Heller. Vitaphone Varieties number 518.

I pescatori di perle (Bizet)

Cast: BG (Nadir); Giuseppe de Luca (Zurga)

- a) Act I: Se tu che dinnanzi mi sta
- b) Act I: Del tempio al limitar

LP: EJS 403 (a-b)

35.F01

Filmed in the first half of 1935. These two short films commemorate the 100th anniversary of Vincenzo Bellini's death in September 1835. The first was from a film lasting 13 minutes. It has the excerpt from *I puritani* but also excerpts from other music by the composer. The Italian film is entitled simply *Bellini* and was directed by Vincenzo Cavagna. It is available from the Istituto Luce (see the addendum below). The second was a British Pathé film and taken from the Italian film, but with a British voice added.

- a) Feneste che lucive
- b) *La sonnambula* (Bellini) Prendi l'anel ti dono
- c) *I puritani* (Bellini) A te o cara.

LP: UORC 151 (c); LEGATO CLASSICS LCD 139-1 (c).

NOTE: Gigli does not appear in either of these two films but at least he is mentioned on the soundtrack of the Pathé film which was obviously taken from the complete film from Italy. It should also be noted that the Neapolitan song, "Feneste che lucive," originally thought to have been by Bellini, was composed by Guglielmo Cottrau (1797-1847), father of the better-known Teodoro (composer of "Santa Lucia"). The "A te o cara" has one verse only.

35.F02

May, Filmed in Berlin, the German version, *Vergiss mein Nicht*, (*Forget me not*) was not released until October 1935. The music was by Alois Melichar and the film was directed by Augusto Genina.

- a) Non ti scordar di me
- b) Mille cherubini in core
- c) *Mignon* (Thomas) Dieu l'préservée
- d) *Marta* (Flotow) Quel'affanno assai mi dice
- e) O sole mio

LP: EJS 171 (c-d); SCALA SC 851 (a-b, d); EMBER GVC 1 (a-b, e); CD: LEGATO CLASSICS LCD 106 (a-b)

NOTE: This film is available at www.rarefilmsandmore.com Number SKU 2753

35.F03

4 December, the British version of *Forget me not* began filming at Worton Hall in Isleworth in Middlesex. The première took place in London on 30 March 1936 at the Cambridge Theatre. This version was directed by Stanley Irving.

- a) O sole mio
- b) Sweet dream of love (Addio bel sogno)

LP: RHAPSODY RHA 6017 (a-b);

NOTE: This film has many other items other than those items listed above. The most recent incarnation of the complete British version of the film is available on a DVD from Bel Canto Society BCS D0504

36.F01

May, *Ave Maria* was filmed at the Tobis Atelier in Berlin and was directed by Johannes Riemann. Alois Melichar conducted the Berlin Staatsoper orchestra. The Berlin première took place at the Ufa-Palast am Zoo on 28 August 1936. The second version, in Italian, premièred on 17 August 1936 at the Venice Biennale.

- a) *La bohème* (Puccini) Che gelida manina
- b) *Il trovatore* (Verdi) Di quella pira
- c) *Hansel und Gretel* (Humperdinck) Nel bosco c'è un ometto
- d) Soltanto tu Maria
- e) Anima mia
- f) *La traviata* (Verdi) Un di felice (with Erna Berger)
- g) *La traviata* (Verdi) Mi chiamaste... Ogni suo aver tal femmina (with Erna Berger)
- h) Ave Maria

LP: EJS 464 (c,g); UORC 371 (a); LEGATO CLASSICS LCD 106 (b-h); CD: GOP 804 (c); BONGIOVANNI GB 1189-91 (b, f-g)

NOTE: The most recent incarnation of the complete German and Italian versions of the film is available on a DVD from Bel Canto Society BCS D0494. This film is also available at www.rarefilmsandmore.com Number SKU 1070

36.F02

In June/July Gigli was in Munich, at the Bavaria film studios filming *Du bist mein Glück*. The Italian title was *Tu sei la vita mia*. The Orchestra of the Staatsoper, München is conducted by Giuseppe Becce. The film was directed by Karl Heinz Martin. The première of this film was 7 October 1936 in Stuttgart.

- a) Tu sei la vita mia
- b) *Manon Lescaut* (Puccini) Donna non vidi mai
- c) *Manon Lescaut* (Puccini) Ah! Non v'avvicinate. (with Ludwig Weber)
- d) *Aida* (Verdi) Celeste Aida

LP: EJS 357 (c-d); EJS 464 (b); ANNA 1049 (a); CD: LEGATO CLASSICS LCD 106 (a-c); BONGIOVANNI GB 1189-91 (b-d)

NOTE: This film is available at www.rarefilmsandmore.com Number SKU 1673. "O terra addio" (with Hildegard Rankzak and Maria Cornelius) and "E lucevan le stelle" were both included but have not so far appeared on CD.

36.F03

November, Gigli filmed *Die Stimme des Herzens* also known as *La canzone dell'amore*. The Orchestra of the Staatsoper München is conducted by Giuseppe Becce. The premiere was on 30 March 1937 in Berlin.

- a) La bamboletta
- b) Vorrei cullarti
- c) Apri fanciulla tuo cuore

CD: CLAMA CD-5 (a-c)

NOTE: This film is available at www.rarefilmsandmore.com Number SKU 1992

37.F01

October, Gigli filmed *Solo per te* also known as *Mutterlied* at Cinecittà, in Rome. It was directed by Carmine Gallone.

- a) *Mefistofele* (Boito) Giunto sul passo estremo (with Giulio Neri)
- b) *Andrea Chenier* (Giordano) Si fui soldato
- c) Ninna nanna della vita.
- d) Agnus dei

LP: ANNA 1049 (d); ANNA 1064 (b); TIMA CLUB TIMA 69/70 (a,c); CD: LEGATO CLASSICS LCD 106 (c); CLAMA CD-5 (a,c); BONGIOVANNI GB 1189-91 (b)

NOTE: This film is available at www.rarefilmsandmore.com Number SKU 2506

38.F01

July, Gigli filmed *Giuseppe Verdi* at Cinecittà in Rome with orchestra of the Teatro Reale dell'Opera conducted by Tullio Serafin. Directed by Carmine Gallone, it was released in Italy in August 1938. It was also called *Divine armonie*.

- a) *Il trovatore* (Verdi) Deserto sulla terra (with Apollo Granforte)
- b) *Aida* (Verdi) O terra addio (with Maria Cebotari and Maria Huder)
- c) *Otello* (Verdi) Esultate

LP: RHAPSODY RHA 6017 (a-c); EJS 325 (a); CD: GOP 804 (a);

38.F02

August-September, Gigli filmed *Marionette* in Rome. A separate version in German was made entitled *Dir gehört mein Herz*. It was directed by Carmine Gallone and premiered in Königsberg on 22 November 1938.

- a) Tre giorni son che Nina
- b) Io t'amo
- c) Desiderio

LP: TIMA CLUB TIMA 69/70 (a-c); CLAMA CD-5 (a-c)

39.F01

13 June-July, Gigli filmed *Casa lontana* in Rome. There is a German version entitled *Der singende Tor*. It was directed by Johannes Meyer. The German version was premiered in Germany on 28 December 1939.

- a) Maria, tu sei per me la vita
- b) La canzone del clown

LP: UORC 371 (a); ANNA 1032 (b);

NOTE: Track b is by Italian composer Riccardo Zandonai and was written especially for the film. It does not appear anywhere else. This film is available at www.rarefilmsandmore.com Number SKU 1941

40.F01

8 or 11 September 1940. A performance of *Isabeau* by Pietro Mascagni was broadcast by Italian Radio. It was conducted by the composer. The Istituto Luce holds a short film entitled *Concerto* which was made of Mascagni's music. It was directed by Giovanni Botarelli and contains three items, including Gigli singing a snatch of *Isabeau* from one of the two concert performances.

- a) *Silvano* (Mascagni) Barcarola
- b) *Isabeau* (Mascagni) Non colombelle
- c) *Iris* (Mascagni) Inno del sole

NOTE: Gigli only appears for a few seconds in this film from 4 minutes 30 seconds in, and the aria is only heard for about three minutes and even then, the sound disappears. It is, however, available on the Istituto Luce website. (see addendum below)

40.F02

3-10 October, Gigli starred in *Mamma*. It was made in Rome and also at Gigli's villa just outside Recanati. It was directed by Guido Brignone. The music was played by the orchestra of the Teatro Reale dell'Opera conducted by Luigi Ricci.

- a) *Mamma*
- b) *Se vuoi goder la vita*
- c) *Otello* (Verdi) Esultate
- d) *Otello* (Verdi) Dio me potevi scagliar
- e) *Otello* (Verdi) Ho un'arma ancor...

LP: TIMA CLUB TIMA 69/70 (c-e); EMBER GVC 1 (b); RHAPSODY RHA 6017 (d); EJS 141 (c-d); CD: LEGATO CLASSICS LCD 106 (a); CLAMA CD-5 (c-e); BONGIOVANNI GB 1189-91 (c-d)

NOTE: There is one extra piece from Verdi's *Otello* in the film. Gigli and Marcella Govoni sing the final bars of the act I love duet, "Gia nella notte densa." This remains unpublished on disc.

41.F01

August-September, filming of *Vertigine*. This film also had a German version called *Tragödie einer Liebe*. The film was directed by Guido Brignone.

- a) *La Walkiria* (Wagner) Cede il verno
- b) *Caro mio ben*

LP: RHAPSODY RHA 6017 (a-b); TIMA CLUB TIMA 69/70 (a); ANNA 1032 (a); CD: CLAMA CD-5 (a)

NOTE: The German version of this film is available at www.rarefilmsandmore.com Number SKU 2763

42.F01

May & July, Gigli filmed two versions of *I Pagliacci*. The second is called, *Lache Bajazzo*. In the Italian version Gigli himself sings most of the Prologue. In the German version German bass, Hans Hotter, sings it. The orchestra is conducted by Luigi Ricci. Directed by Giuseppe Fatigati, the Italian version was filmed at Cinecittà in Rome. The German version was filmed in Berlin in July 1942 and was directed by Leopold Hainisch. That was first screened in Berlin on 12 August 1943.

- a) *La sonnambula* (Bellini) Prendi l'anel ti dono
- b) *Der Feldprediger* (Millöcker) Valzer della felicità
- c) *I Pagliacci* (Leoncavallo) Vesti la giubba
- d) *I Pagliacci* (Leoncavallo) Vo il nome ... No, Pagliaccio non son (with Adrianna Peris, Mario Borriello, Adelio Zagonara and Leone Paci)

LP: EJS 233 (a, c); EJS 469 (d); ANNA 1032 (a); LEGATO CLASSICS LCD 106 (b)

NOTE: Track b, from *Der Feldprediger*, was for years mis-labelled as coming from the same composer's *Gasparone*, even on the original 78rpm commercial release which was recorded in Berlin on 10 August 1942. The German version of this film is available at www.rarefilmsandmore.com Number SKU 1161.

43.F01

20 April. The Istituto Luce holds this film from a concert for the wounded and the injured during World War Two. It shows stars in their dressing rooms including Anna Magnani, Toto and others. Rina Gigli is shown briefly as well as other famous actors of the time. Gigli is shown making up, but it is not clear for what. However, he is also shown singing one verse of a song. It is available from the Istituto Luce website. It seems to have been filmed at the Teatro Quirino in Rome. (see addendum below)

- a) Rondine al nido

NOTE: This footage is only 3 minutes 15 seconds long and Gigli comes in at 1 minute 36. The Luce number is Giornale Luce C0341. The date cannot be confirmed as there are no entries for that date on any Gigli chronology. He was certainly in Rome on that date as he was singing at the Teatro Reale dell'Opera the next day.

43.F02

12 July, Gigli spent the remainder of July working on the film *Silenzio si gira*. It was filmed at Cinecittà and directed by Carlo Campgalliani. Luigi Ricci conducted the orchestra of the Teatro Reale dell'Opera. It was premiered on 2 October 1943. The German version, *Achtung, Aufnahme* was filmed in Italy as well, but directed by Ela Elborg.

- a) Dimmi tu primavera
- b) *Lohengrin* (Wagner) Mercè, mercè, Cigno gentil
- c) Piscatore 'e pusilleco

LP: TIMA CLUB TIMA 69/70 (b-c); EMBER GVC 1 (a-c); CD: CLAMA CD-5 (b-c)

49.F01

May? Gigli made the film *Una voce nel tuo cuore*. It was directed by Alberto d'Aversa. It opened on 19 November 1949. There are very few other details about this film.

- a) *Marta* (Flotow) M'appari

LP: EJS 357 (a)

49.F02

26 June-11 July. This is a complete *Carmen* sung in Italian. See **49.02** in part **one** of this discography for cast and the details of this recording.

NOTE: Gigli took part in this complete *Carmen* which was recorded as a soundtrack for a film. However, the film for which this was recorded was never made.

50.F01

Late May-June, Gigli made the film *Taxi di Notte* at Cinecittà in Rome. It was directed by Carmine Gallone and was Gigli's last actual acting appearance in a film. It premiered on 10 September 1950.

- a) *Mattinata*
- b) *La favorita* (Donizetti) Spirto gentil

LP: TIMA CLUB TIMA 69/70 (a-b); EJS 469 (b); CD: CLAMA CD-5 (a-b)

52.F01

? Gigli does not appear in this biopic entitled *Puccini*. He is on the soundtrack only. It was directed by Carmine Gallone and premièred on 29 April 1953. It was filmed at Cinecittà. The music was conducted by Fernando Previtali and Francesco Molinari-Pradelli.

- a) *La bohème* (Puccini) Addio dolce svegliare (with Rosanna Carteri)

CD: BONGIOVANNI GB 1189-91 (a)

52.F02

? *Carosello napoletano* was directed by Ettore Gianini at Cinecittà and premièred in Rome on 26 May 1954. Beniamino Gigli did not appear but sung four titles for the soundtrack. The Orchestra Sinfonica di Roma della RAI was conducted by Fernando Previtali.

- a) 'O sole mio
- b) Funiculi funiculà
- c) Marechiarè
- d) Voce e note

LP: ANNA 1018; (a-d); TIMA CLUB TIMA 69/70 (a); CD: CLAMA CD-5 (a)

ADDENDUM

The purpose of this part of the discography is to list the tracks from the film appearances of Beniamino Gigli that have been published on disc. Only some of the music from each film has become available on disc. Since the last discography was published in 1990, not only is

there more information about Gigli's films available from the Internet, but the films themselves are available on the Internet, sometimes in rather better prints than have been available on DVD previously.

It may therefore be useful to provide a selection of Internet links of the filmic material where possible. It should be noted that when the source is YouTube, the links are correct at the time of posting, but may well change. Less likely to change are the lengthy links from the Istituto Luce. The numbers listed below will correspond to the more detailed entries above, starting with the Vitaphones from 1927.

The picture quality varies throughout the listing from dire to mediocre. Some of the film prints have even been remastered. This should add considerably to knowledge of Gigli. There are some extra entries not mentioned above, as they have not appeared anywhere else, except on YouTube and they will be listed among their surrounding items chronologically. All the items listed below will probably have to be copied and pasted into an Internet browser.

27.F01 – *Rigoletto*,

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WpasZ9Pg29U>

27.F02 – *Cavalleria Rusticana*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ewt49c8jwbk>

27.F04 – *Concert favourites*

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w_Hke-V4Zso

27.F05 – *La gioconda*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CXI7E9mIDuw>

28.F01 – *I pescatori di perle*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fWvaxKMAcA4>

19 November 1932 – *L'afriicana* (Meyerbeer) O paradiso (The aria is cut.) This is a rehearsal sequence for a concert in the Sportpalast in Berlin later that day.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g0lyaGjWNL8>

1933 – *Serse* (Handel) Ombra mai fu (Aria only). Filmed in Kingsway Hall with Herbert Dawson at the organ. Presumably this Pathè newsreel was filmed in March 1933, about the same time the commercial recording was made.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d8G5azsXJ5E>

35.F01 – *Bellini*

[https://patrimonio.archivioluce.com/luce-web/detail/IL3000083537/1/bellini.html?startPage=20&jsonVal={%22jsonVal%22:{%22query%22:\[%22Beniamino%20Gigli%22\],%22fieldDate%22:%22dataNormal%22,%22_perPage%22:20}}](https://patrimonio.archivioluce.com/luce-web/detail/IL3000083537/1/bellini.html?startPage=20&jsonVal={%22jsonVal%22:{%22query%22:[%22Beniamino%20Gigli%22],%22fieldDate%22:%22dataNormal%22,%22_perPage%22:20}})

37.F01 – *Solo per te*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oXPMpDpYz8c>

38.F01 – *Giuseppe Verdi*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gtmm1L87yJg>

1939 – Made in September, the film *Ritorno*, directed by Geza von Bolvary, has music by Riccardo Zandonai, but none of the music from this film has yet appeared on disc. It therefore does not appear above.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TQuBO2LuRCY>

40.F01 - Concerto

https://patrimonio.archivioluce.com/luce-web/search/result.html?startPage=20&query=Beniamino+Gigli&jsonVal=%7B%22jsonVal%22%3A%7B%22query%22%3A%5B%22Beniamino+Gigli%22%5D%2C%22fieldDate%22%3A%22dataNormal%22%2C%22_perPage%22%3A20%7D%7D&orderBy=&orderType=asc&activeFilter=&perPage=20

1940 – *La traviata*. This is the end of Act I. The aria is sung by Mafalda Favero and Gigli. It was live from the Maggio Musicale Fiorentino with the orchestra conducted by Mario Rossi. It is shown as part of a film from the Istituto Luce entitled *Armonie di primavera*. Gigli did sing several performances of *La traviata* in Florence in May 1940.

https://patrimonio.archivioluce.com/luce-web/detail/IL3000050908/1/armonie-primavera.html?startPage=20&jsonVal={%22jsonVal%22:%22query%22:%22Beniamino%20Gigli%22,%22fieldDate%22:%22dataNormal%22,%22_perPage%22:20}}

40.F02 – Mamma

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WE6fOaPaCsw>

41.F01 – Vertigine

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xQAe-AkaVrY>

42.F01 - I Pagliacci

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TQuBO2LuRCY>

43.F01 – Rondine al nido

https://patrimonio.archivioluce.com/luce-web/detail/IL5000073547/2/a-roma-spettacolo-i-feriti-guerra.html?startPage=0&jsonVal={%22jsonVal%22:%22query%22:%22Beniamino%20Gigli%22,%22fieldDate%22:%22dataNormal%22,%22_perPage%22:20}}

43.F02 – Silenzio si gira

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C8JGyh1083k>

52.F02 – Carosello Napoletano

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IXYu90PSBSw>

David Cutler, June 2001