Opera Rara

New Release
Verdi Originals

GIUSEPPE VERDI

DON CARLOS

Joseph Rouleau
André Turp
Robert Savoie
Edith Tremblay
Michelle Vilma

CATALOGUE NUMBER ORCV305 (4CD)

With this release of *Don Carlos*, acknowledged today as Verdi's noblest opera, Opera Rara completes its series of **Verdi Originals** – the five operas restored to their very first versions and given as concert performances by the BBC.

Verdi's commission from the Paris Opera was for a five-act grand opera in the style of Meyerbeer or Halévy. Grand indeed, for the scale of Verdi's conception was monumental. However, in his enthusiasm, Verdi composed an opera that was considered, even for French taste, too long. As rehearsals progressed, it became necessary to make cuts, some of them substantial. It is not hard to imagine Verdi's dismay at this point and, after the first performance, he left Paris, never having heard his opera as originally composed.

The eliminated music remained unheard and was forgotten until David Rosen and Andrew Porter began reassembling the opera according to Verdi's original plan. Conceived by the BBC's Chief Producer for radio, Julian Budden and with a largely Francophone cast, the 1973 BBC "restored" *Don Carlos* was a revelation.

The restored passages were, of course, a great discovery but the real excitement came with the first ever opportunity to fully experience and comprehend Verdi's original intentions for this magnificent opera.

Included in this superb package is a 300 page beautifully illustrated booklet which, in addition to a four language libretto and synopsis (Italian, German, French and English), features an introductory note by Andrew Porter.

APRIL 2006

Also in the Opera Rara Verdi Orginal Series:
Macbeth (ORCV301) Simon Bocanegra (ORCV302)
La Forza del Destino (ORCV303) Les Vêpres Siciliennes (ORCV304)