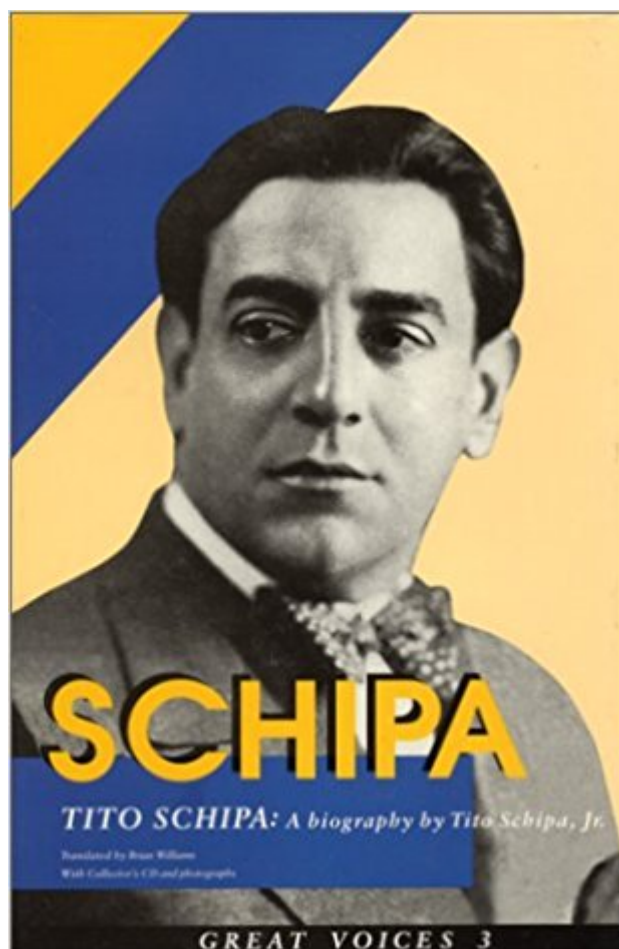


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Schipa (Great Voices)



Synopsis

From dust jacket notes: "Tito Schipa: at the mention of his name what memories must come to the minds of those lucky enough to have heard him sing - even at his farewell concert in 1962 at the age of 73. On tour in Europe and America, whether singing for heads of state in the world's greatest opera theaters or for women's clubs in places like Louisville, Kentucky, Schipa gave of himself unstintingly over a career that lasted more than half a century, all the while sustaining the highest artistic standard, effortlessly producing phrases that have never been equaled for clarity of diction, technical mastery of expressive effects (including sfumato and smorzando effects at the top of his range), and sovereign musicality. Writing about his father, Tito Schipa, Jr., gives the master his due, but he also gives us an unflinching description of the man. If he had more control over his voice than any singer of this century, he had less control of his life than just about anyone in the public eye. With no thought for the morrow he let himself be derailed by attractive women or waylaid by confidence tricksters. Though he commanded very high fees, he seemed to place no value on money once it had come into his hands, or indeed on material wealth in any form....In the course of this book we come to understand and even to love the man Schipa, but the artist will forever remain an enigma. More than an intelligent singer, he was a gifted composer, yet he was a complete failure as a teacher, unable to communicate anything special about his technique except to say 'It's like speaking.' Clearly Tito Schipa knew how to experience great singing. He never forced his voice and was a wonderful host to the musical genius who sprang to life whenever he opened his mouth in song...." Includes a Collector's CD with 20 selections of Schipa's performances.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

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This is a superb book. This is writing that warms and serves the heart of all who love great art. It does great honor to its great subject, the unique and incomparable lyric tenor, Tito Schipa. And it does honor to its author, who knows how to reveal the greatness of his subject by giving a frank and honest portrayal of the ordinary facts that are known about his life, by giving unreserved praise of those qualities which made Tito Schipa a divine gift to the world, and by writing about feeling matters from the position of a feeling man. For those who are fortunate enough to be already enraptured by the Tito Schipa magic, reading this book will be a joyous event, a celebration of beauty and love, and a reminder of all the dimensions of what it is to be human. For those who are led by this book to listen for the first time, or the first time with real attention, to recordings of Tito Schipa, they may look forward to a wonderful enrichment of their lives. The book includes a compact disc containing 20 selections from Tito Schipa's recordings, lovingly chosen to both cover the range of the master's art, and to provide a few of his utterly unique accomplishments that have not been made available to date on other published collections. For those who are or who aspire to be singers in the bel canto tradition, there is surely no better model than this man and these recordings.

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