

NEW RELEASE

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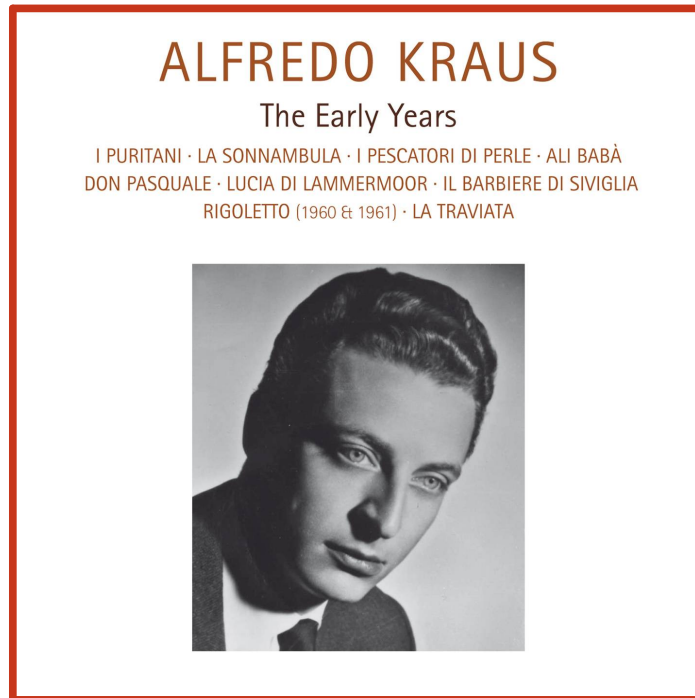
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Giuseppe Verdi; Georges Bizet; Vincenzo Bellini; Gaetano Donizetti; Gioachino Rossini; Luigi Cherubini

Alfredo Kraus - The Early Years

Alfredo Kraus; Maria Callas; Renata Scottò; Mirella Freni; Ivo Vinco; Franco Ghione; Vincenzo Bellezza; et al.

PC10449	20 CD
2200	1958-1963



Alfredo Kraus was considered the "grand seigneur" among the tenors of his time, an outstanding stylist, an unrivalled knight of high C (and above) - an aristocrat of tenor bel canto - there were and are certainly more famous tenors, but hardly any have reached the class of Alfredo Kraus, the lightness, elegance and sensual charisma of his voice. The present 20-CD-set documents Kraus' early years from 1958-1963 in live recordings. After his stage debut in 1956 in Cairo, his career took off very quickly: *Traviata* alongside Maria Callas in Lisbon in 1958, followed by *Rigoletto*, *Lucia*, *Barbiere* at the great houses of Italy. In these early years Kraus also sang the typical tenore lirico and tenor di grazia roles documented in this box, such as Nadir in Bizet's *Les Pêcheurs de Perles* (at that time in Italian) or Ernesto in *Don Pasquale*, the barely singable role of Arturo in Bellini's *I Puritani*, whose high D he well knew how to master, or the Nadir in Cherubini's rare *Ali Babà*.