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Florence Foster Jenkins: The Biography That Inspired The Critically-acclaimed Film



Synopsis

She was a woman with a dream. Nobody believed in her talent. But nothing could stop her. . . This is the true story of FLORENCE FOSTER JENKINS Now the basis of a major motion picture starring Academy Award--winning actress Meryl Streep She had no pitch, no rhythm, and no tone. Still, Florence Foster Jenkins (Streep) became one of America's best-known sopranos. Born in 1868, Florence was a talented young pianist whose wealthy father refused to let her continue her musical studies in Europe. In retaliation, Florence eloped with Dr. Frank Jenkins, a man twice her age, and moved to New York. But when her father died and left her a large sum of money, Florence finally had a chance to pursue her one true passion: Singing. But first she would have to learn how to become a great singer. Years of lessons and a chance meeting with St. Clair Bayfield (Hugh Grant), who would become her manager and common-law husband, would help launch Florence's career and entry into New York's prestigious classical musical societies, culminating in her giving a recital, at the age of seventy-six, at Carnegie Hall. This is story of a woman who was not afraid to recreate herself into the person she wished to become and achieve her own version of the American Dream.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Decca's CD Florece Foster Jenkins supposedly is the soundtrack for the new film of that name starring Meryl Streep as the American soprano (1868-1944) who was the talk of the operatic world during her era. Jenkins dreamed of being a famous opera star in spite pf the fact she had no talent.

To her ears, she was the best, totally deluding herself, to the dismay - and pleasure - of others. Married to a very wealthy man who would not permit her to sing publicly, when he died she could pursue her dream, giving private recitals as well as a sold-out concert in Carnegie Hall. Her accompanist[was Cosme (not "Cosmo") McMoon, who was able to keep a straight face as Mme. Jenkins was performing. She made a series of recordings for the private Melodram label. These were 78rpm recordings and I owned and treasured each one. Eventually they were issued on an RCA LP which is still available and has been reviewed on this site(REVIEW). Meryl Streep and pianist Simon Heilberg apparently spent many hours perfecting their realization of Mme. Jenkins' inadequate voice, with brilliant results. The Queen of the Night aria is a masterpiece, perhaps even funnier than the original (it only lacks innocence). There are some drawbacks. Valse Caressante is drastically cut, which omits the unbelievable cadenza. And four classic recordings have been omitted: Charmant Oiseau, The Musical Snuff Box), and Biassy, which is sung in fractured Russian. These classics surely should have been included. his disk says it is the soundtrack for the film, but it contains only music, all (except the Jenkins items) composed by Alesandre Desplat.

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