



A tragic loss to singing: Ettore Bastianini, here as Figaro in *Il barbiere di Siviglia*, died aged just 44

The greatest regret surrounds the firing of Bastianini from Karajan's 1961 *Otello* recording. Iago wasn't in his repertoire (he later sang a single performance in Cairo) and, as John Culshaw chronicles in his 1981 autobiography *Putting the Record Straight*, it became apparent that Bastianini had not learnt his part. Live recordings from the

THE ESSENTIAL RECORDING



Verdi
 La forza del destino
Molinari-Pradelli cond
 Decca (12/55)
 This is truly magnificent - still the best recording of the opera out there.

Salzburg Festival (*Don Carlo* and a gripping *Il trovatore*) are testament to a happier relationship with Karajan, as is Bastianini's gala sequence appearance on the Austrian conductor's Decca recording of *Die Fledermaus*, duetting outrageously with Giulietta Simionato in 'Anything you can do' from the musical *Annie Get Your Gun!* **G**

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