



## G. Verdi: Rigoletto

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Rigoletto was a major interest of Ferenc Fricsay; it was the first work he conducted, in Szeged in 1940 when he was only 26. This Audite recording was made Sept. 20-30, 1950 for RIAS, the radio station in the American Sector of Berlin (Fricsay also recorded for them *The Abduction from the Seraglio* and *Die Fledermaus*). The cast is excellent throughout if sounding rather unidiomatic in German, with a young Rudolf Schock as the Duke, the assured Rita Streich as Gilda, and Josef Metternich a powerful jester. Recorded sound is well-balanced, no libretto is provided. For whatever reason, producers have elected to have limited tracks, although individual sections are indexed, a rare occurrence today, and one that many CD players cannot accommodate.