

Gli Equivoci nel sembiante

Commedia in musica in three acts

Libretto of **Domenico Filippo Contini**

Music of **Alessandro Scarlatti** (1660-1725)

First performance :

Rome, private Theatre of the Contini' family, february 1679

Roles and soloists :

Clori, nymph, in love with Eurillo – **auditions in progress**

Lisetta, her younger sister, secretly in love with Eurillo – **auditions in progress**

Eurillo, shepherd, in love with Clori – **auditions in progress**

Armindo, twin of Eurillo – **auditions in progress**

Nymphs, shepherds – silent (at choice)

Auser Musici - 6 vl, 2 vla, vlc, vla da gamba, vlne, hpd, 2 theorbos

Conductor **Carlo Ipata**

Concert version or semi staged form

Auser Musici



Carlo Ipata



Coproduction 2012 Festival Opera Barga, Festival Toscano di Musica Antica and other european partners.

Gli equivoci nel sembiante was written by Scarlatti at the age of **18** on a libretto of Contini.

The opera was a small-scale production (only four singers) which premiered in Rome during Carnival in 1679. Pope Innocent XI was real interested in restoring holiness to Rome; therefore, he did not like secular plays or operas. Yet entertainment was allowed during Carnival. During the initial performance period, the Queen of Sweden traveled to Rome and saw the young composer's opera. She liked the opera so much that she watched it at least two more times.

The opera was also performed during Lent at the house of Count Capizucchi. This performance went against the pope's rules. Two reasons are given for the performance. The first is that the Count's wife was bedridden because of pregnancy. The second reason is that Cardinal Chigi wanted to see the opera. Either way, this Lenten performance shows the popularity that this opera received in a relatively short time span.

In 1681, the opera was performed in two of the centers of opera, Vienna and Naples. These performances were given to celebrate a member of Austrian royalty and were attended by an élite audience.

In 1690, the opera was performed in Venice for the first time to celebrate the wedding of a Venetian noblewoman to a Roman prince. The performance was seen be a fairly large crowd of nobles and diplomats.

This is just a few of the several performances of the opera. Most of these performances were small in scale, performed to entertain an élite crowd of nobles. In this way, *Gli equivoci nel sembiante* is typical of many small scale operas of its day - they existed not as entertainment for the masses in large concert halls, but for nobles in private performances.