

Program

Luigi Cherubini

Arias and Opera Overtures from Florence to Paris

Maria Grazia Schiavo, Soprano

Luigi Cherubini (Florence 1760 - Paris 1842)



Démophon, Overture
(Paris 1788)

Ti lascio adorato mio ben, Scena and Rondò for M.lle Balletti, (Paris 1789)

Il Giulio Sabino, Overture, (London 1786)

Qual da venti combattuta, Arias from *Zelmira* of *Armida*, (Florence 1780)

Non so più dove io sia, Recitativo and Cavatina for M.lle Balletti, (Paris 1789)

Adriano in Siria, Symphony
(Livorno 1782)

D'un dolce ardor la face, Arias for M.lle Balletti (from *La Grotta di Trofonio* by Antonio Salieri)
(Paris 1790)

Mesenzio, Overture
(Florence, 1782)

I mesti affetti miei, Aria of Epponnina, from *Giulio Sabino* (London, 1786)

Turbata ai dubj accenti, Aria of Igenia from *Ifigenia in Aulide* (Turin 1788)

and airs of *Cimarosa*, *Paisiello*, *Jommelli* (to be detailed)

Cast: soprano soloist, conductor, orchestra of 25 members

This project was produced in September and October of 2010 as a co-production with the Bru Zane Foundation of Venice for the occasion of the 250th anniversary of Cherubini's birth.

The CD is soon to be released (February 2012) on Hyperion.

Luigi Cherubini's life spanned an epoch full of some of the greatest political and social changes in Europe with all the turmoil and profound social, cultural and musical transformation that came about as a result.

He was a child prodigy and son of one of the harpsichordists of the Pergola Theater in Florence. His musical sensitivity would be, from his earliest experiences in composition, moulded by Italian operatic tradition. He absorbed the elements of style, but at the same time developed his own distinct taste for orchestration. This program is dedicated to the "Italian" Cherubini whose compositional trajectory is delineated by the performance of some of the most beautiful arias from the Italian operas of the master and the overtures from *Giulio Sabino* and *Démophon*. In the latter, written in the "tragic" key of c minor, one can hear the first sparks of the pre-romantic fires, which with *Medea*, would bring about Cherubini's becoming one of the most highly acclaimed composers of Europe. Next season this program will be enriched with other, unpublished opera arias and duets for soprano and tenor by Cherubini and his contemporaries.