

Season 2014/15



Baroque Divas

A concert programme with
Vivica Genaux | Mary-Ellen Nesi | Sonia Prina | Romina Basso
George Petrou | Armonia Atenea



CD to be released
by Decca



Baroque Divas

The history of opera is inseparably linked with the biographies of singers. Audiences have always been fascinated by the musical highlights and the goings-on behind the scenes alike. The battle for prestige and fame was particularly passionate during the Baroque age.

In Baroque opera – and especially in Neapolitan opera – the “prima donna” and “primo uomo” were so important that they could in fact give famous composers instructions as to what they wanted their arias to be like. Thus, it comes as no surprise that these singers reached cultic status and stardom, which eventually led to legendary rivalries.

The Haendel performers Francesca Cuzzoni and Faustina Bordoni were among the most acclaimed divas of the Baroque age. They were fierce competitors, even resorting to fisticuffs on stage. With tongue-in-cheek humour, present-day primadonnas Vivica Genaux, Mary-Ellen Nesi, Sonia Prina and Romina Basso follow in the footsteps of their passionate predecessors. Extra spice is added by the fact the these present-day divas will also perform arias that, in the Baroque era, were the province of male singers.

These three star mezzos and the wonderful contralto will be accompanied by the superb Greek orchestra Armonia Atenea under conductor George Petrou, winner of Germany’s prestigious ECHO Klassik Prize.

Enjoy a marvellous recital, bringing to life the rich heritage of Baroque opera –the acme of musical enjoyment and the entertaining element of cultic stardom alike.



Vivica Genaux



Mary-Ellen Nesi



George Petrou

Programme



Romina Basso



Sonia Prina

Vivica Genaux:

C. W. Gluck, **Le belle immagini** (Paride ed Elena)
 F. M. Veracini: **Amor, dover, rispetto** (Adriano in Syria)
 J. A. Hasse: **Fra quest ombre** (Solimano)

Romina Basso:

A. Vivaldi: **Vedro con mio diletto** (Giustino)
 A. Caldara: **Daranno a l'ira mia** (Euristeo)
 D. Sarro: **Al torrente che ruina** (Siroe)

Sonia Prina:

T. Traetta: **Ah! tu non senti amico, Szene und Arie des Orest** (Iphigenia in Tauris)
 L. Vinci: **Ti calpesto o crudo amore** (Astianatte)
 J. A. Hasse: **Scherza il noccher talora** (Demetrio)
 or **Solca il mare** (Tigrane)
 C. W. Gluck: **Che faro senza Euridice** (Orfeo)

Mary-Ellen Nesi:

C. W. Gluck: **Szene und Arie der Clytemnestre**
 (Iphigénie en Aulide)
 L. Vinci: **Ti parli nel seno speranza** (Siface)
 G. B. Bononcini: **Spera che questo cor** (Astianatte)

Mary-Ellen Nesi, Romina Basso und Sonia Prina:

L. Vinci, **Terzett** (Siface)

Armonia Atenea:

A selection of concertos by Vivaldi, for various instruments

The programme for each concert will be determined on an individual basis

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