



01/11-(5)

G. Fr. Handel (1685-1759)
Alessandro Severo HWV A13
(Opera in 3 acts)

+
Niccolò Manzarò
Don Crepuscolo

Soloists
Armonia Atenea
(on period instruments)
George Petrou, cond.

3 CDs at the price of 2

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Top Ranking

George Petrou and his ensemble have advanced to the first ranks of Handel interpreters in record-breaking time. This time the Greek conductor presents us a CD premiere featuring the rebirth of *Alessandro Severo*, a Roman emperor from the beginning of the third century. Petrou also offers us a special surprise treat with *Don Crepuscolo* by the Greek composer Niccolò Manzarò.

Timely Success

Alessandro Severo from 1738 is one of the three extant pasticcios penned by Handel, and in it the composer proves to be the undisputed master of the genre. With finesse he brings together a selection of his greatest successes from earlier works to form a new, coherent whole – supplemented by an overture – concerning the Roman ruler's life and death. And it is thus that he was able once again to supply the English public with the highest artistic pleasure within the shortest time.

Tour de Force

Niccolò Manzarò is known at most as the composer of the Greek national anthem. The discovery of an opera by him was a major find even for George Petrou. *Don Crepuscolo* from 1815 is very easy to perform because it mainly consists of mute roles. Only the main character is allowed to sing in this work. The roles nevertheless have all that it takes. Full of youthful freshness and élan, Don Crepuscolo longs yearningly for a dream woman. We

experience a highly comical libretto and at the same time a fantastic tour de force in which Christophorus Stamboglis impressively employs his extremely flexible bass voice so very rich in contrasts.

Tremendous Coup

George Petrou again draws an outstanding vocal ensemble including Kristina Hammerström, Mary-Ellen Nesi, Irina Karaianni, Marita Solberg, Gemma Bertagnolli, and Petros Magoulas. The recently founded Armonia Atenea performs on historical instruments. On their fifth opera recording the Handel specialists again score a major coup.

Georg Fr. Händel conducted by George Petrou

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