

Donizetti

Roberto Devereux

Tragedia lirica in Three Acts
Libretto by Salvatore Cammarano

One of Donizetti's most emotionally raw operas, *Roberto Devereux ossia Il conte di Essex* was also the third to be loosely based on episodes in the life of Queen Elizabeth I. It deals with the love of Elizabeth and her favourite, the Earl of Essex, perhaps most tellingly expressed in the Act I duet, *Nascondi, frena i palpiti, o misero mio core / Hide, hold back your palpitation, oh my wretched heart!* Elizabeth's subsequent abdication is, however, a matter of dramatic licence, yet provides a memorable operatic conclusion to this tragedy of love and jealousy as she despairs at the death of her lover – *Quel sangue versato al ciel s'innalza / The blood that is spilt rises up to Heaven.* Directed by Francesco Bellotto, this was the inaugural production of the Bergamo Music Festival 2006, featuring the Greek soprano and leading Donizetti specialist, Dimitra Theodossiou, and the young American baritone Andrew Schroeder, both in superb voice.

Elizabeth, Queen of England	Dimitra Theodossiou
The Duke of Nottingham	Andrew Schroeder
Sara, Duchess of Nottingham	Federica Bragaglia
Robert Devereux, Earl of Essex	Massimiliano Pisapia
Lord Cecil	Luigi Albani
Sir Walter Raleigh	Giorgio Valerio

Orchestra and Chorus of the Bergamo Musica Festival

Marcello Rota

Chorus Master: Corrado Casati

Director: Francesco Bellotto

Sets & Costumes: David Walker

Filmed at the Teatro Donizetti, Bergamo, Italy, September 2006

Video director: Matteo Ricchetti

Sung in Italian

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