

During his years in Italy, Handel absorbed the music of his contemporaries and mastered new stylistic trends. Though the staging of *La resurrezione* was a memorable event in the Roman musical world, it was the production of *Agrippina* that marked Handel's definitive investiture as an operatic composer. It met with enormous success and an unprecedented number of performances followed. Its melodic power is overwhelming and in his creation of credible and vivid characters, the alternation of recitative and arias, and sheer theatrical power, Handel established the template that was to last for the remainder of his operatic career.

GEORGE FRIDERIC HANDEL

(1685–1759)

AGRIPPINA

Dramma per musica in three acts (1709)

Libretto by Vincenzo Grimani (1652/55–1710)

Agrippina	Patricia Bardon
Nerone	Jake Arditti
Poppea	Danielle de Niese
Ottone	Filippo Mineccia
Claudio	Mika Kares
Pallante	Damien Pass
Narciso	Tom Verney
Lesbo	Christoph Seidl

Balthasar Neumann Ensemble
Thomas Hengelbrock

Stage Director Robert Carsen

Set and Costume Designer Gideon Davey

Lighting Designers Robert Carsen and Peter van Praet

Video Designer Ian Galloway

Dramaturge Ian Burton

Film Director François Roussillon

Filmed on 16 and 29 March 2016 at the Theater an der Wien, Vienna, Austria

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