



Henry Purcell was a genius whose ability to combine French and Italian influences transported the English language to new levels of expression in music. *Dido and Aeneas* was pioneering in its day and is considered one of Purcell's foremost theatrical works, with a moving tale of love, betrayal and tragedy that has proved to be of unceasing appeal to audiences for centuries. Deborah Warner's brilliant stage direction combines period colour with present-day dynamism, while William Christie's affection for this opera shines through in an overwhelmingly acclaimed performance filmed in December 2008 at the Opéra Comique in Paris.

HENRY PURCELL (1659–1695)

DIDO AND AENEAS

Opera in a prologue and three acts, Z. 626 (1689)
Libretto by Nahum Tate (1652–1715) after Virgil's *Aeneid*

Dido	MALENA ERNMAN
Aeneas	CHRISTOPHER MALTMAN
Belinda	JUDITH VAN WANROIJ
Sorceress	HILARY SUMMERS
Second Woman	LINA MARKEBY
First Witch	CÉLINE RICCI
Second Witch	ANA QUINTANS
Spirit	MARC MAUILLON
Sailor	DAMIAN WHITELEY
Prologue	FIONA SHAW

LES ARTS FLORISSANTS

Conductor, Harpsichord and Organ **WILLIAM CHRISTIE**

Stage Director **DEBORAH WARNER**

Set and Costume Designer **CHLOE OBOLENSKY**

Lighting Designer **JEAN KALMAN**

A production by the Opéra Comique, in co-production with Dutch National Opera
Adapted from the Wiener Festwochen production premiered in Vienna on 11 May 2006
Supported by the Friends and Patrons of the Opéra Comique (AMOC)

Film Director **FRANÇOIS ROUSSILLON**

Filmed on 7 and 9 December 2008 at the Opéra Comique, Paris, France

A co-production by the Opéra Comique, ARTE France and François Roussillon et Associés, with the participation of TFI,
and with the support of the Centre national de la cinématographie



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