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8.572224

Playing Time
79:49

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First performed in London in 1736 to an admiring audience of 1,300 people, and enjoying considerable success thereafter, Handel's setting of John Dryden's 1697 poem *Alexander's Feast* evokes the power of music to stir the soul to acts of love and war, revenge and revels. This splendid oratorio, set at Alexander the Great's victory celebrations for his conquest of Persia, culminates in an apotheosis to 'divine Cecilia', the patron saint of music whom Handel also praises in his *Ode for St Cecilia's Day* of 1739 (Naxos 8.554752).

George Frideric
HANDEL
(1685-1759)

Alexander's Feast, or The Power of Musick (1736)

Ode wrote in Honour of St. Cecilia,
in two parts, HWV 75

Text: John Dryden (1631-1700)

Adapted by Newburgh Hamilton (1691-1761)

1-20 Part the First 51:55

21-28 Part the Second 27:54

Gerlinde Sämänn, Soprano • Knut Schoch, Tenor
Klaus Mertens, Bass • Junge Kantorei
Frankfurt Baroque Orchestra • Joachim Carlos Martini

A detailed track list can be found on page 3 of the booklet
The sung texts, including a German translation, can be accessed at www.naxos.com/libretti/572224.htm
Recorded live at Kloster Eberbach, Rheingau, Germany, on 11th May, 2008
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Cover image: *Allegorical study for a memorial print of Handel* by Giovanni Battista Cipriani (1727-85)
(Gerald Coke Handel Collection, Foundling Museum, London / The Bridgeman Art Library)