

Set in a time of ancient Rome's persecution of the Christians, Handel's late masterpiece *Theodora* tells of the tragic martyrdom of the heroine and her lover Didymus. The challenging nature of the libretto with its religious conflict, cruelty, self-sacrifice and brothel scene was discomfiting for contemporary audiences, and despite Handel's magnificent music the oratorio was his least successful. This is part of a series of Handel oratorios from Martini and Junge Kantorei.

George Frideric
HANDEL
(1685-1759)

Theodora, HWV 68 (1749)

An Oratorio

Libretto by Thomas Morell (1703-1784)

- Theodora Christina Wieland, Soprano
 Irene Diana Schmid, Mezzo-soprano
 Didymus Franz Vitzthum, Countertenor
 Septimius Knut Schoch, Tenor
 Valens Klaus Mertens, Bass-baritone

Junge Kantorei • Frankfurt Baroque Orchestra
Joachim Carlos Martini

CD 1	77:34	CD 2	51:43	CD 3	42:37
1-28 Act I	77:34	1-26 Act II	51:43	1-19 Act III	42:37

A detailed track list can be found on pages 3 to 5 of the booklet
 The sung texts, including a German translation, can be accessed at www.naxos.com/libretti/572700.htm
 Recorded live at Basilika Kloster Eberbach, Eltville am Rhein, Germany, on 23rd May, 2010
 Producer and editor: Mark Buecker • Booklet notes: Joachim Carlos Martini and Christoph Heyl
 Cover painting: *St Ursula* by Guido Reni (1575-1642) (The Morley Collection
 National Trust Photographic Library / Rob Matheson / The Bridgeman Art Library)



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Playing Time
2:51:54



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