

La pietra del paragone (The Touchstone), a story of three rival women and their pursuit of marriage to Count Asdrubale, is unique in the sense that no other opera of Rossini's has been so highly praised in the literature on the subject and yet so seldom performed. The better known *Il barbiere di Siviglia* brought a series of stage successes without comparison, and so shaped the fate of *La pietra*. That it could not be counted among the first rank of Rossini operas meant that for nearly two centuries it had no place, not even a modest one, on the stage. It does, however, thoroughly deserve its reputation and marks a unique phase of Rossini's development as a master of opera buffa. His genius for melody and sparkling, witty orchestration are already apparent in this relatively early work.



Gioachino
ROSSINI
(1792-1868)

ROSSINI
IN WILDBAD
Belcanto Opera Festival

La pietra del paragone

| | | |
|----------------------|-------|-----------------------|
| La Marchesa Clarice | | Agata Bienkowska |
| La Baronessa Aspasia | | Anna Rita Gemmabellla |
| Donna Fulvia | | Anke Herrmann |
| Il Conte Asdrubale | | Raffaele Costantini |
| Il Cavalier Giocondo | | Alessandro Codeluppi |
| Macrobio | | Dariusz Machej |
| Pacuvio | | Gioacchino Zarrelli |
| Fabrizio | | Teru Yoshihara |

Czech Chamber Chorus • Czech Chamber Soloists, Brno
Alessandro de Marchi, Conductor and Harpsichord

CD 1 68:28 CD 2 21:07 CD 3 71:46

1-16 Act I

1-6 Act I, cont.

1-17 Act II

Recorded live 21st, 24th & 27th July 2001 in Kurhaus Bad Wildbad, Germany during the
ROSSINI IN WILDBAD Festival (Artistic Director: Jochen Schönleber)

New edition from contemporary manuscripts revised by Dimitri Prokhorenko, O.F.L. Medienvorlag, Calmbach
Producer: Siegbert Ernst • Engineers: Uta Hesse and Thomas Lenssen-Rigorth • Editor: Dr Max Forster

Booklet Notes: Bernd-Rüdiger Kern & Keith Anderson • A co-production with SWR

Cover Picture: Etching based on a stage design by Fumagalli for *La pietra del paragone*, 1813
(Private Collection)



DDD

8.660093-95

Playing Time
2:41:21



© & © 2004 HNH International Ltd.
Booklet notes and synopsis in English
Made in Canada

www.naxos.com

NAXOS

ROSSINI: *La pietra del paragone*

8.660093-95