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Playing Time
2:59:46

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Booklet notes and synopsis in English

Rinaldo, its plot drawn from Tasso's epic of the Crusades, was Handel's first opera for London, where it was staged in 1711. The Italian libretto was set in the space of just two weeks by Handel, who made full use of earlier compositions, particularly those from his recent years in Italy. The novel Italian singing style with its arias and recitatives, and the sheer variety of colourful orchestral effects, ensured that *Rinaldo* won immediate and widespread success. On this recording an impression of the original theatrical effects is created by extensive use of percussion.



George Frideric
HANDEL
(1685-1759)
Rinaldo



Goffredo (Captain General of the Christian Forces) Marion Newman
Almirena (his daughter, betrothed to Rinaldo) Laura Whalen
Rinaldo (Christian hero, betrothed to Almirena) Kimberly Barber
Eustazio (Goffredo's brother) Jennifer Enns Modolo
Argante (King of Jerusalem, lover of Armida) Sean Watson
Armida (Sorceress, Queen of Damascus and lover of Argante) . Barbara Hannigan
Mago cristiano (A Christian magician) Giles Tomkins
Donna (A woman) Nicole Bower
Due sirene (Two Sirens) Catherine Affleck, Melinda Delorme
Un araldo (A herald) Lenard Whiting

Opera in Concert • Aradia Ensemble
Kevin Mallon

CD 1	78:47	CD 2	52:15	CD 3	48:44
① Overture	4:44	①-⑭ Act II	52:15	①-⑯ Act III	48:44
②-⑯ Act I	74:03				

A full track listing can be found on pages 3 to 5 of the booklet

The Italian libretto can be found at www.naxos.com/libretti/rinaldo.htm

Recorded in Grace Church on the Hill, Toronto, Canada, from June 19th to 22nd,
and from August 25th to September 2nd, 2004

Producers: Bonnie Silver & Norbert Kraft • Engineer: Norbert Kraft • Editor: Bonnie Silver
Performing edition: Kevin Mallon • Booklet Notes: Keith Anderson

Cover image: *Rinaldo's departure from Armida* by Giovanni Battista Tiepolo (1696-1770) (akg-images)