A story of love, marital fidelity, the defeat of a tyrant (the Babylonian King Belshazzar) and the triumph of the good, Rossini's *Ciro in Babilonia* is a bold fusion of biblical and secular subjects set to brilliant, thrilling music. Although intended to be staged during Lent, *Ciro* includes all the time-honoured ingredients of serious opera such as the test of love, military scenes, the help of a turncoat, disguise, prison scenes, a funeral march and a sudden happy ending.

SWR ⟩⟩

R O S S I N I
IN WILDBAD
Belcanto Opera Festival

Gioachino
ROSSINI
(1792-1868)
Ciro in Babilonia

Baldassare	**Riccardo Botta, Tenor**
Ciro, King of Persia	**Anna Rita Gemmabella, Alto**
Amira . . . . Luisa Islam-Ali-Zade, Mezzo-soprano	
Argene . . . . Maria Soulis, Mezzo-soprano	
Zambri	**Wojtek Gierlach, Bass**
Arbace	**Giorgio Trucco, Tenor**
Daniele	**Giovanni Bellavia, Bass**

ARS Brunensis Chamber Choir
[Chorus master: Roman Valek]
Württemberg Philharmonic Orchestra • Antonino Fogliani

CD 1	61:50	CD 2	70:09
1 Sinfonia	6:17	1 -19 Act II	70:09
2 -11 Act I	55:33		

A full track list can be found on page 3 of the booklet
The Italian libretto may be accessed at www.naxos.com/libretti/660203.htm

Recorded live on 16th, 22nd and 24th July, 2004, in the Kursaal, Bad Wildbad, Germany, during the Rossini in Wildbad Festival (Artistic director: Jochen Schönleber) • A co-production with SWR
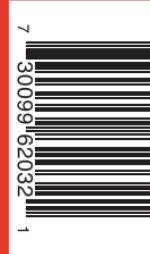Producer: Siegbert Ernst • Engineer: Norbert Vossen • Assistant Engineer: Siggi Mehne
SWR Editor: Dr. Max Forster • Booklet Notes: Reto Müller
Cover Photograph: Rossini in Wildbad 2004 © Dietmar Scholz