

No one did more to combine in his operas the innovations of the Viennese classical composers, Haydn, Mozart and Beethoven, with the Italian ideal of *bel canto* than Johann Simon Mayr, the Bavarian composer who rose to fame in Italy. His opera *Saffo*, first performed in 1794, dates from his years in Venice. Not only was it his first opera but it was premièred at the Teatro La Fenice where it was enthusiastically received. It is full of surprising and striking elements, with a strong musical realisation of the text, supportive string and woodwind writing and vivid solo and choral effects. Set by the Rock of Leucas, from which unsuccessful lovers leap to their deaths, the opera deals with the poetess Sappho's unhappy love for Phaon, finally resolved in a happy ending.



Johann Simon
MAYR
(1763-1845)
Saffo

bezirk oberbayern



Dramma per musica in due atti • Libretto by Antonio Simeone Sografi

Saffo (Sappho) Andrea Lauren Brown, Soprano
Faone (Phaon) Jaewon Yun, Soprano
Alceo (Alcaeus) Markus Schäfer, Tenor
Amfizione (The Pythia) Marie Sande Papenmeyer, Mezzo-soprano
Laodamia Katharina Ruckgaber, Soprano
Euricleo (Euricles) Daniel Preis, Tenor

WORLD PREMIÈRE RECORDING

Members of the Bavarian State Opera Chorus
Simon Mayr Chorus • Concerto de Bassus

Theona Gubba-Chkeidze, Concertmaster

Franz Hauk, Harpsichord and Conductor



CD 1 **1** Sinfonia
2-25 Act One

5:27
55:29

CD 2 **1-29** Act Two

60:28

Recorded in the Kongregationssaal, Neuburg, Germany, 25th-31st August 2014

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The libretto and English and German translations can be accessed at www.naxos.com/libretti/660367.htm

NAXOS

DDD

8.660367-68

Playing Time
2:01:24



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Booklet notes and Synopsis in English
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