

NAXOS

DDD

8.660536-37

Playing Time
2:32:56

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Booklet notes and synopsis in English
Made in Germany

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Francesco Cavalli was successor to Monteverdi and the most influential opera composer in Venice during the mid-17th century. His *dramma per musica*, *Il Xerse*, was innovative for the period, with a tangled plot of affections and relationships based on history rather than mythology. Its enormous success was due in no small part to Xerse's bizarre and overblown character and his famous declaration of love for a tree, 'Ombra mai fu'. Cavalli's *Il Xerse* is *commedia dell'arte* theatre that creates an exotic world aimed at inspiring awe in its audiences, enhanced with music that conveys an avalanche of emotions.

Francesco
CAVALLI
(1602–1676)
Il Xerse

Dramma per musica in a prologue and three acts (1655)

Libretto by Nicolò Minato (c. 1627–1698)

Critical edition by Sara Elisa Stangalino and Hendrik Schulze (2019) – abridged version
(The artistic team at Festival della Valle d'Itria have made some cuts to this performance
which include removing the Prologue and several scenes)

Sung in Italian

Xerse	.....	Carlo Vistoli, Countertenor
Amastre	.....	Ekaterina Protsenko, Soprano
Arsamene	.....	Gaia Petrone, Mezzo-soprano
Romilda	.....	Carolina Lippo, Soprano
Adelanta	.....	Dioklea Hoxha, Soprano
Ariodate	.....	Carlo Allemano, Tenor
Aristone	.....	Nicolò Donini, Bass
Periarco	.....	Nicolò Balducci, Countertenor
Elviro	.....	Aco Bišćević, Tenor

Orchestra Barocca Modo Antiquo

on period instruments

Federico Maria Sardelli

CD 1 **1–11** Act I
12–17 Act II

47:20 CD 2 **1–5** Act II (cont'd)
29:04 **6–16** Act III

18:14
58:18

The Italian libretto and an English translation can be accessed at www.naxos.com/libretti/660536.htm • An interview with Federico Maria Sardelli and the stage director Leo Muscatto can also be accessed at www.naxos.com/notes/660536.htm
Recorded live: 25, 29 and 31 July 2022 at Teatro Verdi, Martina Franca, Italy (during the 48th Festival della Valle d'Itria)
Executive producer: Alberto Dellepiane • Producers and engineers: Rino Trasi, Vera Zanotti • Editor and mixing: Rino Trasi
Booklet notes: Roberta Pedrotti and Mattia L. Palma – courtesy of the Festival della Valle d'Itria; Daniela Pilarz
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