

Ottorino Respighi's *Maria Egiziaca*, described by the composer as a 'mystery in three episodes', narrates the life of Saint Mary of Egypt in a profoundly moving and deeply sensuous musical representation of Christian faith as seen through its various characters. This work, depicting Maria's journey from prostitution to sainthood through sin, conversion and atonement, started out as a concert triptych and sits somewhere between an oratorio and an opera. The intensely dramatic and at times symphonic qualities of *Maria Egiziaca* are imbued with ancient Italian musical traditions, with two beautiful symphonic interludes separating the three episodes.



Ottorino  
**RESPIGHI**  
(1879–1936)

**Maria Egiziaca**

(‘Saint Mary of Egypt’)

*Mistero* in three episodes (1929–31)

Libretto by Claudio Guastalla (1880–1948)

Maria ..... Francesca Dotto, Soprano  
Pilgrim / Abbot Zosimo ..... Simone Alberghini, Baritone  
Sailor / Leper ..... Vincenzo Costanzo, Tenor  
First Companion ..... Michele Galbiati, Tenor  
Second Companion / Poor Man ..... Luigi Morassi, Tenor  
Blind Woman / Voice of the Angel ..... Ilaria Vanacore, Soprano  
Voice from the Sea ..... William Corrà, Bass-baritone

Roberta Paroletti, Harpsichord

Coro del Teatro La Fenice di Venezia (Alfonso Caiani, Chorus Master)

Orchestra del Teatro La Fenice di Venezia

Manlio Benzi, Conductor

A detailed track list can be found inside the booklet

The Italian libretto and an English translation can be accessed at [www.naxos.com/libretti/660591.htm](http://www.naxos.com/libretti/660591.htm)

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