

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 Corrò, 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

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