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With his affinity for the 16th-century sculptor Benvenuto Cellini's advocacy of artistic and personal freedom, Hector Berlioz went straight for the grand gesture with his first completed opera. Returning to it years after initial production debacles, Berlioz stated that he would 'never again find such verve and Cellinian impetuosity, nor such a variety of ideas'. The plot revolves around Cellini's wooing of Teresa, a match frustrated at every opportunity by his rival, the cowardly Fieramosca. *Benvenuto Cellini* is a pithy work combining romance, excitement, violence, comedy and spectacle; the perfect stage for Terry Gilliam's stylishly colourful and larger-than-life directing.

HECTOR BERLIOZ

(1803–1869)

BENVENUTO CELLINI

Opera in two acts (1838) · Libretto by Léon de Wailly and Auguste Barbier

Stage Director: TERRY GILLIAM

Benvenuto Cellini	JOHN OSBORN
Giacomo Balducci	MAURIZIO MURARO
Fieramosca	LAURENT NAOURI
Le Pape Clément VII	ORLIN ANASTASSOV
Francesco	NICKY SPENCE
Bernardino	SCOTT CONNER
Pompeo	ANDRÉ MORSCH
Le Cabaretier	MARCEL BEEKMAN
Teresa	MARIANGELA SICILIA
Ascanio	MICHÈLE LOSIER

CHORUS OF DUTCH NATIONAL OPERA

Chorus Master: CHING-LIEN WU

ROTTERDAM PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

Conductor: SIR MARK ELDER

Co-director and Choreographer: Leah Hausman
Stage Designers: Terry Gilliam and Aaron Marsden
Costume Designer: Katrina Lindsay
Lighting Designer: Paule Constable
Video Designer: Finn Ross
Film Director: François Roussillon

Terry Gilliam's *Benvenuto Cellini* is a co-production of Dutch National Opera, English National Opera and Teatro dell'Opera di Roma. This audiovisual recording is a co-production of Dutch National Opera and François Roussillon et Associés, in association with ARTE France, and with the participation of NHK and the support of Centre National du Cinéma et de l'image animée.



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