

The Cenci (1951–52) is Havergal Brian's operatic realisation of Shelley's gruesome tale of incest and parricide in Renaissance Italy. The score calls it simply an 'Opera in Eight Scenes', but it rarely goes in for grand tunes; instead, its dark colours reflect Shelley's fascination with the struggle between good and evil. Stylistically, it is an unusual but highly effective hybrid: a music-drama focused on the intense delivery of Shelley's text, with the declamatory style of the vocal lines echoing such recent oratorios as Stravinsky's *Oedipus Rex* and Honegger's *Jeanne d'Arc au bûcher*, and the freewheeling orchestral writing producing something of a vocal symphony.



TOCC 0094

HAVERGAL BRIAN *The Cenci*

CD 1		CD 2			
1	Overture (<i>Preludio Tragico</i>)	13:57	1	Scene 5: Before the Castle of Petrella	15:59
2	Scene 1: An apartment in the Cenci palace, Rome	8:48	2	Scene 6: An apartment in Orsino's palace, Rome	6:16
3	Scene 2: A garden of the Cenci palace, Rome	7:45	3	Scene 7: The Hall of Justice, Rome	9:55
4	Scene 3: A magnificent hall in the Cenci palace, Rome: A banque	10:26	4	Scene 8: A hall of the prison	15:05
5	Scene 4: An apartment in the Castle of Petrella (among the Apulian Apennines)	13:17			
		54:15			47:17
					TT 101:32

Beatrice Cenci: Helen Field (soprano) 4 / 1 3 4
 Count Cenci: David Wilson-Johnson (baritone) 2 4 5
 Lucretia: Ingveldur Ýr Jónsdóttir (contralto) 4 5 / 1 4
 Cardinal Camillo/An officer: Stuart Kale (tenor) 2 4 / 1 3 4
 Orsino/Bernardo: Justin Lavender (tenor) 3 / 1 2 4
 Giacomo/Savella/1st judge/2nd judge:
 Jeffrey Carl (baritone) / 1–4

Marzio/3rd guest/A cardinal:
 Nicholas Buxton (tenor) 4 / 1
 Olimpio/Colonna/A guest:
 Devon Harrison (bass) 4 / 1
 1st guest/2nd guest: Serena Kay (soprano) 4 /
 The Millennium Sinfonia
 James Kelleher, conductor

LIVE RECORDING



TOCCATA CLASSICS
 16 Dalkeith Court,
 Vincent Street,
 London SW1P 4HH, UK

Tel: +44/0 207 821 5020
 E-mail: info@toccataclassics.com

© Toccata Classics, London, 2024
 © Toccata Classics, London, 2024



MADE IN GERMANY