

Regarded by many as Mercadante's masterpiece, *La vestale* (The Vestal Virgin) was first staged in Naples in 1840. It tells the tragic story of Emilia, who takes her vows as a vestal, thinking her beloved Decio dead. His triumphant return from war offers a dilemma that is only finally resolved by the death of the lovers, Decio by his own hand, and Emilia buried alive. Military triumph and the final entombment of Emilia anticipate events in Verdi's *Aida*, written thirty years later. Wexford Festival Opera is acclaimed world-wide for its courageous programming of neglected repertoire and its high production values.

Wexford Festival Opera
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Saverio
MERCADANTE
(1795-1870)

La vestale – Opera in Three Acts

- Emilia Doriana Milazzo, Soprano
Decio Dante Alcalá, Tenor
Giunia Agata Bienkowska, Mezzo-Soprano
Publio Davide Damiani, Baritone
La Gran Vestale Danna Glaser, Soprano
Metello Pio Andrea Patucelli, Bass-Baritone
Licinio Murena Ladislav Elgr, Tenor
Lucio Silano Mattia Denti, Bass

Wexford Festival Opera 2004 production

Directed by Thomas de Mallett Burgess • Designed by Jamie Vartan

Wexford Festival Opera Chorus (Chorus Master: Lubomír Mátl)
Cracow Philharmonic Orchestra • Paolo Arrivabeni

CD 1	38:23	CD 2	58:42
1-7 Act I		1-6 Act II	34:55
		7-9 Act III	23:47



DDD

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Playing Time
97:09



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Booklet notes and synopsis in English
Kommentar und Handlung in Deutsch
The libretto can be found at
www.naxos.com/libretto/lavestale.htm
Made in the EU

New score edited by Marco Galarini for Wexford Festival Opera
from the original manuscript • Sung in Italian
Recorded during performances at the Theatre Royal, Wexford, Ireland,
on 23rd, 26th and 29th October, 2004, using 24-bit technology
Producer, Engineer and Editor: Andrew Lang (K&A Productions Ltd.)
Cover photograph: Scene from *La vestale*, Wexford Opera 2004 production
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