

Season 2013/14  
Season 2014/15

**Georg Friedrich  
Handel**

**TAMERLANO**

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# G. F. Handel

## TAMERLANO



Faramondo, Farnace, Artaserse, Alessandro have all proved to be outstanding operatic successes for Parnassus Arts Productions, attracting enthusiastic audiences, critical superlatives and prestigious awards. Just weeks after their release, the CDs of Alessandro and Artaserse, operas touring in the 2012/13 season, have already achieved substantial recognition: among the honours received by Alessandro are France's Diapason d'Or and Choc de Classica 2012, while the Christmas 2012 edition of the UK's BBC Music Magazine has named it CD of the Month. Artaserse, meanwhile, has received the Diamant d'Opéra and the Grand Prix de l'Académie Charles Cros, both in France.

With Handel's Tamerlano, Parnassus Arts Productions is proud to present another jewel of Baroque opera. This new production furthers our successful collaboration with the internationally renowned Baroque specialist ensemble

Il Pomo d'Oro and its conductor Riccardo Minasi. The cast – Max Emanuel Cencic, Xavier Sabata, Fabio Armiliato, Nuria Rial and Mary-Ellen Nesi – promises an operatic experience at the highest level. Recording sessions are scheduled for Summer 2013, while performances are planned for the 2014/15 seasons.

One of the most fascinating figures of the Baroque era, George Frideric Handel was a composer of greatness and man who led a colourful life. Indeed, the Handel expert Franzpeter Messmer has said that: "Handel's life was an adventure and this adventure continues. Today, his music, so full of emotion and discoveries, retains its excitement for musicians and audiences." (Franzpeter Messmer, Georg Friedrich Händel, Düsseldorf 2008, P. 270)

Handel settled in England in 1712 and cultivated the highest levels of the aristocracy. He held an official position in the King's household and in 1719 was commanded to establish the opera company the Royal Academy of Music, for which he was to write many works. The mainstay of the Academy, which attracted Europe's most celebrated singers to London's King's Theatre, was Italian opera.

Handel's *Tamerlano*, which received its premiere at the King's Theatre on 31st October 1724, reflects the composer's relationship with the nobility. Its plot is an imbroglio of love, hate, treachery and power games among the rich and mighty, as the unscrupulous figure of the eponymous Tartar conqueror

locks horns with his prisoner, the proud Sultan Bajazet. This subject matter, based on historical fact but appropriately elaborated for theatrical effect, appears frequently in plays and operas of the 17th and 18th century. Handel's libretto was written by Nicola Francesco Haym, adapting a version of *Tamerlano* by Agostino Piovene.

The action takes place in the 14th century. Tamerlano has defeated Bajazet and taken him prisoner. Bajazet's daughter Asteria, Irene, Princess of Trebizond and Andronico, Tamerlano's ally, become caught in a fateful web of intrigue. Bajazet's suicide at the end of the opera constitutes both the climax and the pivot of the action and points the way to the world of 19th century opera.

*Tamerlano* stands as one of Handel's finest and most significant works, with music that, impressively and with great subtlety, captures a wide range of moods and emotions to match the characters' play of power, love and treachery.



Bajazet is being locked into an iron cage, his wife enslaved.  
Etching by J.N.Geiger

# TAMERLANO

## Cast

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**Tamerlano:** Xavier SABATA \*

**Andronico:** Max Emanuel CENCIC \*

**Bajazet:** John Mark AINSLEY \* | Daniel BEHLE | Juan SANCHO

**Asteria:** Karina GAUVIN \* | Sophie KARTHÄUSER | Julia LEZHNEVA |

Dilyara IDRISOVA

**Irene:** Ruxandra DONOSE \* | Romina BASSO

**Leone:** Pavel KUDINOV \*

**orchestra:** Il Pomo d'Oro \*

**conductor:** Riccardo MINASI \* | Maxim EMELYANYCHEV

\* CD-recording





Xavier Sabata (*Tamerlano*)



Max Emanuel Cencic (*Andronico*)



John Mark Ainsley (*Bajazet*)



Daniel Behle (*Bajazet*)



Karina Gauvin (*Asteria*)



Sophie Karthäuser (*Asteria*)



Ruxandra Donose (*Irene*)



Pavel Kudinov (*Leone*)



Dilyara Idrisova (*Asteria*)

# TAMERLANO

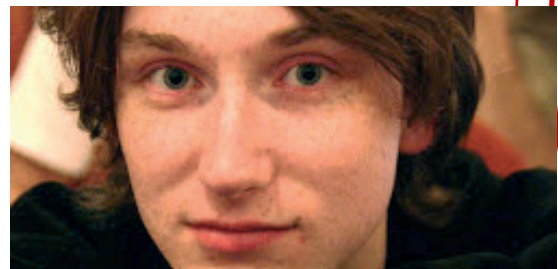
## Cast



Il Pomo d'Oro (orchestra)



Riccardo Minasi (conductor)



Maxim Emelyanychev (conductor)

# TAMERLANO in concert

**5 april 2014**

Opéra Royal, Versailles, FR

**4 may 2014**

Oper Köln, Cologne, DE

**22 September 2014**

Laeiszhalle, Hamburg, DE

**25 september 2014**

Theater an der Wien, Vienna, AT

**8 january 2015**

Opera Rara, Krakow, PL

**8 november 2015**

Concertgebouw / Grote Zaal, Amsterdam (NL)

**10 november 2015**

Barbican Hall, London (GB)

**8 march 2016**

Théâtre de Poissy, Poissy (FR)

**16 october 2016**

Auditorio Nacional, Madrid (ES)

**recording period: 8-16 april 2013, Lonigo, Italy**

**publishing date: March 2014 by Naïve**



# Partners

il pomo d'oro

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an der Wien  
DAS NEUE OPERNHAUS



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