

Season 2014/15
Season 2015/16
Season 2016/17

Johann Adolf Hasse

SIROE

CD / staged / semi-staged / concert



par
nas
sus | arts
productions

Production:
Parnassus Arts Productions



Coproducer:
Château de Versailles
Spectacles



CHÂTEAU DE VERSAILLES SPECTACLES

Coproducer:
Athens Festival

ΦΕΣΤΙΒΑΛ
ATHENS
ΑΘΗΝΩΝ
FESTIVAL
2014

Cast

Siroe: Max Emanuel Cencic
Laodice: Julia Lezhneva
Emira: Roxana Constantinescu
Medarse: Mary-Ellen Nesi
Cosroe: Juan Sancho
Arasse: Lauren Snouffer

Conductor: George Petrou
Orchestra: Armonia Atenea

Stage director: Max Emanuel Cencic
Set and costumes: Bruno de Lavenère
Light: David Debrinay
Video: Etienne Guiol

Siroe

Revisions, or whole re-compositions, is a notable feature of Hasse's operatic writing, and *Siroe*, first performed in Bologna in 1733, is no exception.

Our production uses the last version, written for performances in Warsaw during the Carnival season of 1763. With this third version (there has been a second one in 1747, in the Teatro San Carlo of Naples) Hasse had originally intended to write a completely new score based on Metastasio's libretto, but he lacks of time: only fourteen of the twenty-one arias were revised, including the entire title-role. Indirectly, political events rushed him: The Seven Years' War was drawing to an end and Frederick Augustus II of Saxony, Hasse's employer, was planning his return to Dresden after his exile in Poland. The



upheaval of moving a whole court was about to begin, forcing Hasse to complete his score in a hurry. However, the premiere was a great success despite the ravages of war.

Synopsis

The beautiful Emira, disguised as Idaspe, comes to the court of Cosroe, the King of Persia, to avenge her father's death, the King of Cambrie. Siroe, elder son of Cosroe, is secretly in love with her. Cosroe decides to abdicate in favour of his younger son, Medarse, while Laodice, Cosroe's mistress, falls in love with Siroe.

The story of *Siroe* is a typical background for an opera seria, mixing historical contexts and crossed love intrigues: in 628, the bellicose King of Persia, Cosroe, at war for years with the Emperor Christian Heraclius, and having conquered from him Egypt, Syria and Palestine, decided not to give his succession to his son Siroe.

Revolted by this injustice, Siroe killed his father. He then became King and wrote to Heraclius, asking for peace, restoring a period of magnificence and serenity in Central Asia. Based on this real historic rivalry, Hasse uses all artifices to engage a battle of virtuosity between the soloists.

Johann Adolf Hasse

(1699-1783)

Born in 1699 in Bergedorf, nowadays a suburb of Hambourg, Hasse worked in Italy, Dresden (where he was appointed Kapellmeister), and Vienna. He was known as “il caro sassone”, (the dear Saxon) and for more than fifty years, he was married to the famous (mezzo)-soprano Faustina Bordoni, unanimously recognized as one of the greatest talents of her time.

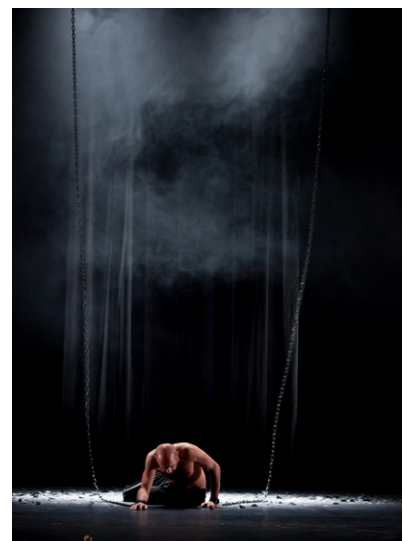
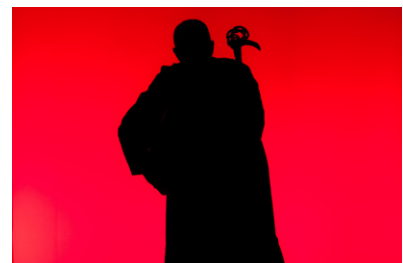
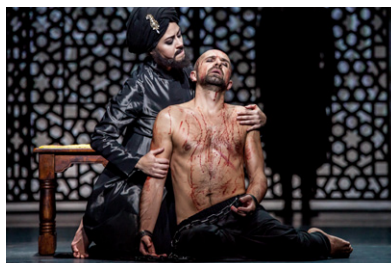
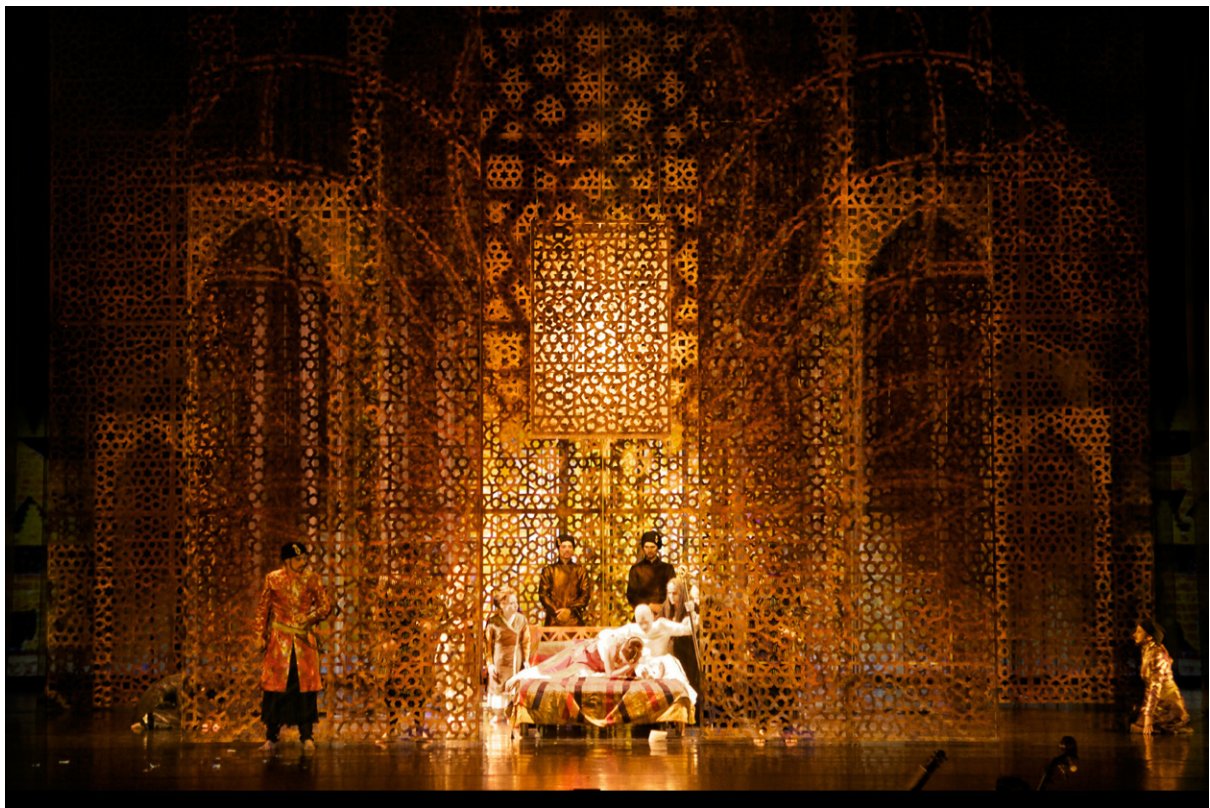
Thanks to his vocal works, Hasse obtained an unparalleled reputation throughout Europe. Over a dozen oratorios have survived, as well as cantatas, serenades, and, above all, some 70 operas.

In a career spanning more than half a century he wrote for all the great singers of his time, the soprano castrato Giovanni Battista Mancini describing him as “the father of music”.

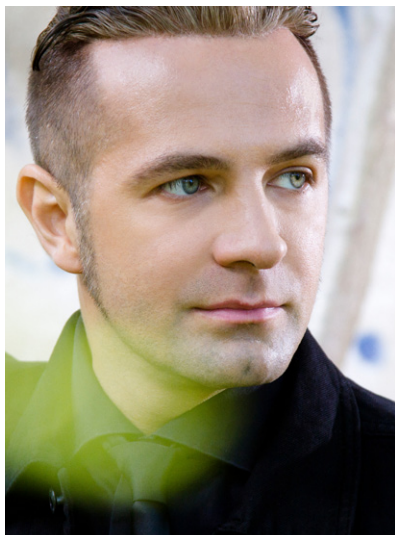
Hasse was close friend with the famous poet Pietro Trapassi, known as Metastasio, whose libretti he set in music more than thirty times. Their multiple collaborations typified the opera seria genre though both lived long beyond the form’s glory days.

Hasse died in Venice, his wife’s hometown, at the age of 84.





Max Emanuel Cencic

 director, Siroe

Max Emanuel Cencic is one of today's most prominent countertenors. He has participated in numerous staged productions of forgotten Baroque works as a singer and recently as producer. He has performed at the Vienna Staatsoper, Gran Teatre del Liceu in Barcelona, Théâtre des Champs-Élysées in Paris, Théâtre du Capitole in Toulouse, La Monnaie in Brussels and in recital at Carnegie Hall in New York, the Barbican Centre in London, Concertgebouw in Amsterdam, Opéra Garnier in Paris and the Nomori Opera in Tokyo. In 2012, he produced the first staging of Leonardo Vinci's opera *Artaserse*, in which he sang the role of Mandane. The following year, he produced and sang in Handel's *Alessandro*, named "Best production of the year" by Mezzo TV.

Bruno de Lavenère

 set and costumes

Bruno de Lavenère is a stage designer for opera, dance and musical theatre. He is a graduate of the Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Arts et Techniques du Théâtre.

He collaborates regularly with the Opéra National du Rhin, the Théâtre de la Ville in Paris, Théâtre du Capitole, and the Opéra de Rouen.

He is currently preparing the stage design for *Quai Ouest* (Kristian Frédéric/Régis Campo, ONR and Staatstheater Nürnberg), *Les Contes d'Hoffmann* (Frédéric Roels, Opéra de Rouen), *La Vie Parisienne* (Waut Koeken, Opéra de Strasbourg) and *Lucia di Lammermoor* (Jean-Romain Vesperini, Opéra de Rouen).

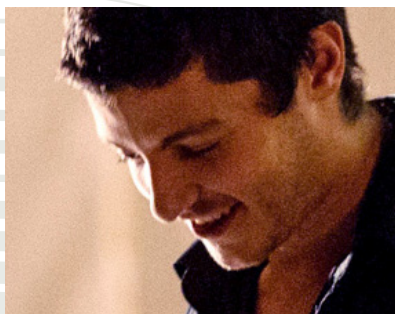
David Debrinay light



In the past years, David Debrinay has principally created the theatrical lighting for Richard Brunel, Jean Louis Benoit, Laurent Brethome, Jean Lacornerie, Johanny Bert, Stéphane Ghislain-Roussel, Simon Delétang, Richard Mitou, Hervé Dartiguelongue, Sophie Langevin, and Eric Massé. He also works in the domain of contemporary circus with Olivier Antoine, le Cirque Hirsute and the equestrian circus company Plume de Cheval. Recently, he has worked in the domain of dance, notably collaborating with Davy Brun and Yan Raballand. He came to opera in 2006 and has created the lighting for operas staged by Lucinda Childs, Richard Brunel, Richard Mitou, Jean Lacornerie and Laurent Brethome. Through these collaborations, he has worked at the Opéra de Lyon, Opéra National du Rhin, Festival d'Art Lyrique d'Aix-en-Provence, Opéra de Montpellier and the Festival d'Ambronay.

David Debrinay is a speaker on lighting dramaturgy at the INSA in Lyon.

Étienne Guiol video



Painter, cartoonist, videographer and master glass-maker working independently in the field of drawing from the age of 15, his multidisciplinary training led to a classical education in drawing and animation in 2006 at the Ecole Emile Cohl in Lyon. He graduated in 2010 and began a career as an independent artist with exhibitions, publishing, projections on stage (Opera, Dance...) and creation of stained glass windows. With an ever greater and constant interest for the stage, he assembled a team in 2012 to form a new structure specializing in visual creation for the live show, BKYC.

George Petrou

 musical director

After a career as a concert pianist, George Petrou turned to conducting. As an orchestral conductor, he specializes in historically informed interpretation and opera. Recently, he conducted Gluck's *Alceste* at the Leipzig Opera, the first modern performances of Gluck's *Il trionfo di Clelia* at the Megaron in Athens and *La Lodoiska* by Mayr with the Münchner Rundfunkorchester, as well as numerous concerts.

His recordings of the operas *Oreste*, *Arianna in Creta*, *Alessandro Severo*, *Tamerlano* and *Giulio Cesare* by Handel for the German label MDG were singled out by the international press. His direction of Handel's *Alessandro* was named "Best production of the year" by Mezzo TV in 2013.

Armonia Atenea

 orchestra

Armonia Atenea is a project of the Athens Camerata, founded in 1991 at the inauguration of the Megaron, the concert hall in Athens, where it has been in residence ever since, as well as at the Onassis Cultural Center in Athens since its opening in 2010. In the autumn of 2009, it began a collaboration with the conductor George Petrou. The Armonia Atenea performs regularly with Max Emanuel Cencic, Karina Gauvin, Julia Lezhneva and Xavier Sabata.

Julia Lezhneva Laodice



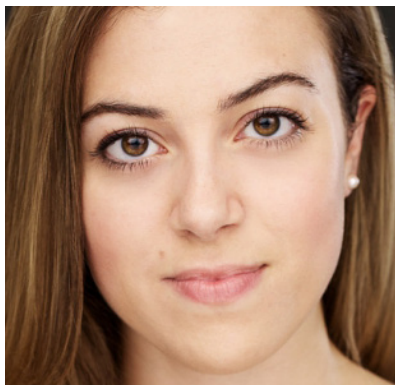
Julia Lezhneva received a state diploma for singing at the Tchaikovsky Conservatory in Moscow in 2008. In 2009, she won first prize in the Mirjam Helin International Singing Competition in Helsinki, and the following year in the Paris International Opera Competition – she was the youngest singer to have competed in these two competitions. In 2010, Julia Lezhneva caused a sensation at the Classical Brit Awards at London’s Royal Albert Hall, singing Rossini’s *Fra il padre* at the invitation of Dame Kiri Te Kanawa. In 2011, Opernwelt named her “Young Singer of the Year” after her debut at the Théâtre de la Monnaie in Brussels. She recorded her first cd with Marc Minkowski, opera arias of Rossini. The disc was distributed by Naïve in March 2011 and received a Diapason d’or. At the end of 2011, Julia Lezhneva was awarded the annual Diapason d’or “Jeune talent”.

Mary-Ellen Nesi Medarse



Mary-Ellen Nesi is one of today’s most prominent mezzos. The Greek singer, born in Montreal has performed on the biggest international stages: Carnegie Hall, Bayerische Staatsoper, Frankfurt Opera, Royal Opera House Covent Garden (Linbury Studio), Théâtre de Champs-Élysées, Opéra du Rhin, Strathmore Hall (Washington DC), Theatre Arriaga (Bilbao), Opera of Sao Carlos (Lisbon), at the communales theatres of Florence, Ferrara, Modena and Piacenza, the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam, Theater an der Wien, and Wiesbaden Opera. In 2003, she founded the Opera Festival of Ancient Corinth. Her primary repertoire is that of the Baroque and Classical periods. Her interpretations in the recordings of Handel’s operas under the direction of George Petrou and Alan Curtis have received critical acclaim.

Lauren Snouffer Arasse



The American soprano Lauren Snouffer has just graduated from her studies at the opera studio of Houston Grand Opera and took part in several of their productions. In 2012 she sang the role of Agnes in the world premiere of George Benjamin's *Written On Skin* at the Festival d'Aix-en-Provence and had her debut in Europe with the same role at Théâtre du Capitole in Toulous, which she also performed at Tanglewood Music Festival, USA, at the Royal Opera House in London und at the Festival de Vienne.

In the season 2013/14 Snouffer sang Pamina in *Die Zauberflöte* at the Kansas City Lyric Opera as well as *Rusalka* and *La Clemenza di Tito* at the Chicago Lyric Opera. She performed with the Aspen Contemporary Ensemble in Ligeti's *Mysteries of the Macabre*. In 2012 Snouffer was finalist at the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions and has a degree from Rice University and Juilliard School.

Juan Sancho Cosroe



Born in 1982, Juan Sancho has studied with Montserrat Figueras, with Raphaël Sikorski at the Laboratoire de la Voix in Paris as well as with Raúl Giménez. His musical education enabled him to work with William Christie, Gustav Leonhardt, Jordi Savall and Fabio Biondi. In 2007 he was selected for Jardin des Voix and for the Académie Européenne de Musique at the Festival d'Aix-en-Provence.

Sancho made his debuts at prestigious venues like La Scala, Barbican Center, Lincoln Center and Salle Pleyel. In the field of opera Sancho sang the *Monteverdi Trilogie* at Teatro Real de Madrid under the baton of William Christie in his stage production of *Pier Luigi Pizzi*. He performed the role of Leonato in Deccas recording of Handel's *Alessandro*.

Roxana Constantinescu Emira



Born in Bucharest, Roxana Constantinescu had her first experiences as singer at the age of 5 in the Children's Choir of the Romanian Radio. In 2003 she received an Erasmus grant for the University of Music and Applied Arts in Vienna, after which she was immediately hired by the Wiener Staatsoper, where she performed in numerous roles from 2007 – 2010. Since then, she is a regular guest at the Minnesota Opera, Wiener Staatsoper, Théâtre du Capitole in Toulouse, Los Angeles Opera, Deutsche Oper Berlin, Theater an der Wien, Carnegie Hall New York, Toronto Bach Festival, Musikfest Stuttgart, the International Bodenseefestival and the Festival Carinthischer Sommer. Roxana Constantinescu's favourite roles are Rosina, Cenerentola, Cherubino, Despina and Nicklausse/Muse. She works with renowned conductors such as Franz Welser-Möst, Kirill Petrenko and Seiji Ozawa.

Dilyara Idrisova Arasse



The Russian soprano Dilyara Idrisova, born in 1989, could be heard in the following roles: as *Rossane* in G. F. Handel's *Alessandro*, as *Lyudmila* in M. Glinka's *Ruslan and Lyudmila*, as *Adele* in J. Strauss' *Die Fledermaus*, as *Gilda* in G. Verdi's *Rigoletto*, as *Marfa* in N. Rimsky-Korsakov's *The Tsar's Bride*. She performed numerous times at B.C.H. named after S. Saydashev (Kazan'), Chelyabinsk Opera Theatre, Bashkir State Opera (Ufa) as well as other concert halls in Moscow, St. Petersburg and more throughout Russia; participated in the concert presentation of the Republic of Bashkortostan at the Headquarters Hall of UNESCO (Paris, France).

Awards Idrisova won include: International Competition "Art of the XXI Century", Grand Prix (Italy, 2011), X All-Russian Youth Delphic Games, Gold Medal (2011, Russia), II International Competition musicians named after Z. Ismagilov Grand Prix (2011, Russia, Ufa), XVIII International Student Vocal Competition named after Lydia Abramova, 2nd Prize "Bella voce" (2012, Russia, Moscow), XIII Delphic Games of the CIS, Gold medal (2013, Russia, Novosibirsk), VI International Opera Singers Competition "St. Petersburg", Diploma and special prize (2013, Russia, St. Petersburg).

Partners



Supported by the
Johann Adolf Hasse-
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Dates

CD recording:

released in November 2014

staged performances:

26.06.2014: Athens Festival, Athens (GR)

27.06.2014: Athens Festival, Athens (GR)

26.11.2014: Opéra Royal, Versailles (FR)

28.11.2014: Opéra Royal, Versailles (FR)

30.11.2014: Opéra Royal, Versailles (FR)

20.05.2017: Hessisches Staatstheater Wiesbaden (DE)

22.05.2017: Hessisches Staatstheater Wiesbaden (DE)

semi-staged performances:

18.04.2015: Vígszínház , Budapest (HU)

09.11.2016: Opera de Lausanne (CH)

11.11.2016: Opera de Lausanne (CH)

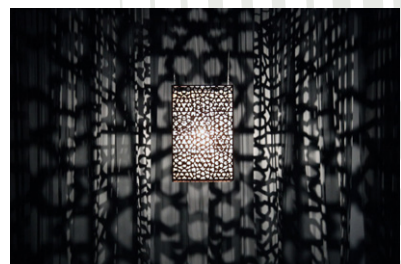
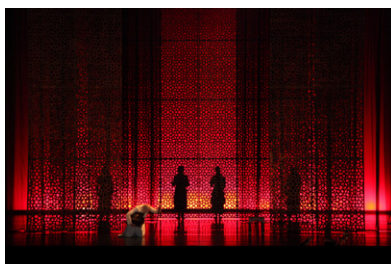
concert performances:

21.04.2015: Theater an der Wien, Vienna (AT)

13.10.2015: Julius Slowacki Theatr, Krakow (PL)

15.10.2015: Tchaikovsky Concert Hall, Moscow (RU)

17.10.2015: Concertgebouw, Amsterdam (NL)





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