

Season 2016/17
Season 2017/18

Max Emanuel Cencic
Porpora

Capella Cracoviensis | Jan Tomasz Adamus

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Max Emanuel Cencic, Countertenor

Capella Cracoviensis | Jan Tomasz Adamus

Nicola Porpora: the Master of the Voice

Max Emanuel Cencic's new programme, [Arias by Nicola Porpora], is the fruit of much research into the music of this *maestro* of the Neapolitan baroque, a figure whose importance is becoming more and more recognised today. Porpora was born in Naples in 1686, and, though almost an exact contemporary of Handel, his musical life and his compositional style took a very different path from that of his great contemporary, not least because, though famous as a composer, he was equally well-known during his lifetime as a teacher of singers, especially castrati. He taught both Farinelli and his great rival Caffarelli, and his own scores (some 200 surviving vocal works, including over 40 operas) reflect the extraordinary and intimate knowledge he had of the voice as an instrument, and as an expressive purveyor of human emotion. His vocal writing abounds in virtuoso technical difficulty, often, as one might expect, in fast and furious *arie di bravura*, but his meltingly emotive *sostenuto* writing has a character all its own, its ornate *floriture* being every bit as testing of a singer's ability as any explosive *allegro*.

Porpora spent much of his life writing for the great opera houses of Italy, but also visited London for several seasons, working in direct competition with Handel, and having great singers like Farinelli, his fellow castrato Senesino, and the great female soprano, Francesca Cuzzoni, in his company. A prolific composer of great skill and *maestro di canto* without equal,

he outlived both Handel and Bach, ending his days in Vienna, where his last pupil (and valet) was one Franz Josef Haydn.

Like his award-winning recitals disc for DECCA, ROKOKO and ARIE NAPOLETANE (Melómano de oro, Diamant de l'Opéra, Diapason d'or), Max Emanuel Cencic's [Arias by Nicola Porpora] is an unbeatable combination: first-rate scholarship, world premiere recordings of forgotten masterworks, and this time a new and exciting ensemble, Cappella Cracoviensis, directed by Jan Tomasz Adamus.

Programme

instrumental

Ifigenia
Tu spietato lo vedrai

Polifemo
Fortunate pecorelle

instrumental

Meride e selinunte torbido intorno al core

Porò
destrier che allarmi usato

intermission -----

instrumental

Polifemo
Core vezzo al furore

Agrippina
Fra gl'insulti di mar

instrumental

Il trionfo di camilla
Torcere il corso all'onde

Filandro
D'esser già parmi

Max Emanuel Cencic (contre ténor)
Capella Cracoviensis (orchestre)
Jan Tomasz Adamus (chef d'orchestre)

Recording period

Partners

22 October - 1 November 2016

capella
cracoviensis

DECCA

Concert period

May 2017 - December 2017

March 2018 - July 2018