Giulio Caccini – L’Euridice (2008)

Prologo *1. Aria di Romanesca 2. La Tragedia : Io che d’alti sospir* Atto primo Scena prima *3. Pastore del Coro : Ninfe ch’i bei crin d’oro 4. Euridice : Donne ch’a miei diletti 5. Coro : Al canto al ballo*
Scena seconda
6. Orfeo : Antri ch’a miei lamenti 7. Dafne Nunzia : Lassa, che di spavento 8. Dafne Nunzia : Per quel vago boschetto 9. Orfeo : Non piango e non sospiro 10. Arcetro : Ahi mort’ invid’e ria 11. Ninfa del coro : Cruda morte
Scena terza
12. Arcetro : Se fato invido e rio 13. Coro : Se de boschi i verdi onori
Atto secondo Scena quarta
14. Aria di Romanesca
Venere : Scorto da immortal guida
15. Orfeo : Funeste piaggie ombrosi orridi campi 16. Plutone : Ond’e cotanto ardire 17. Plutone : Trionfi oggi pieta ne campi inferni 18. Coro : Poi che gli etern’imperi
Atto terzo Scena quinta
19. Aria di Romanesca
Arcetro : Gia del bel carro ardente
20. Aminta : Voi che si ratte il volo 21. Orfeo : Gioite al canto mio 22. Coro : Biondo arcier che d’alto monte Aureo fonde
SCHERZI MUSICALI Orfeo : Nicolas ACHTEN (baryton) Euridice : Celine VIESLET (soprano) Tragedia, Daphne : Magid EL-BUSHRA (contre-tenor) Ninfa, Venere : Marie de ROY (soprano) Ninfa, Proserpina : Laurence RENSON (mezzo-soprano) Arcetro, Caronte : Reinoud VAN MECHELEN (tenor) Tirsi, Aminta, Plutone : Olivier BERTEN (baryton) Sarah RIDY, harpe triple Eriko SEMBA, basse de viole, lirone Simon LINNE, luth, theorbe, guitare Francesco CORTI, clavecin, orgue direction Nicolas ACHTEN (theorbe)

This is only the first surviving opera - Jacopo Peri wrote his "Dafne" in 1597, which is lost. Giulio Caccini just pipped Peri to the post of oldest surviving opera by publishing his Euridice six weeks earlier than Peri's version.

It won't surprise you of course to hear that the style is much like Monteverdi; it's all pleasant enough without being an outstanding work. Out of the three, it's maybe not that hard to comprehend why Monteverdi's version of the Orpheus legend, L'Orfeo, plus his other operas, are better remembered today. However it's interesting to get the chance to hear another example of incipient opera. ---E. L. Wisty, amazon.com

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