

## Gaetano Donizetti - La Lettera Anonima (1998)

Written by bluesever

Wednesday, 22 February 2012 19:51 - Last Updated Wednesday, 30 October 2013 15:41

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01. *Eccellenza, Permettete* 02. *Questo Giorno, O Amata Sposa* 03. *Signori, Il Ciel Vi Guida*  
04. *Messieurs, Les Danses* 05. *No, Non E Ver! Quella Crudele* 06. *Io Piu Non Reggo!* 07. *Hai capito ... Ho capito* 08. *Donna Iniqua E Sconosciute* 09. *E Così Non Rispondi* 10. *La Virtù Di Questa Figlia* 11. *Vendicarmi lo Già Potrei* 12. *Da Quel Sorriso* Benedetta Pecchioli - Rosina Rolando Panerai - Don Macario Carla Virgili - Lauretta Pietro Bottazzo - Captain Filinto - Rosa Laghezza - Melitta Carlo Zardo - Flageolet Franco Ventriglia - Giliberto Coro Amici della Polifonia, Napoli Orchestra Alessandro Scarlatti, Napoli Franco Caracciolo, 1972

La lettera anonima (The Anonymous Letter) is a farce in one act composed by Gaetano Donizetti in 1822 to a libretto by Giulio Genoino, a former monk and the official censor of the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies. Genoino based his libretto on his own farce which, in turn, had been based on *Mélite, ou Les fausses lettres* by Pierre Corneille in 1630.

With a letter of recommendation from his teacher Johann Simon Mayr, Donizetti was in Naples and came to an agreement with the impresario Domenico Barbaja, for whom he had already produced *La zingara* (The Gypsy Girl) on 12 May 1822, to write the opera. Six weeks later he presented the new farce to the public, the premiere taking place on 29 June 1822.

Overall, the opera appears to have been well received and given twenty performances, although according to Donizetti, "it was half-ruined by a novice singer (Cecconi)". However, as has been noted, "the score contains an attractive speciality number for the dancing master, Flageolet, and an extended quartet, "Stelle che intesi", the one number of the work to be praised by critics after the premiere" as "avoiding those caballetas and that symmetrical repetition of motifs which obliges all the performers to repeat the same musical phrases no matter what the different emotions may agitate them".

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Synopsis. Place: France. Time: 17th century

Countess Rosina and Captain Filinto are going to get married. An anonymous letter claiming that the Captain is already married to another arrives on the wedding day. This letter is finally found to be false, and the preparations for the wedding party continue.

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