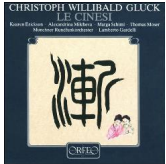


Gluck - Le Cinesi (Gardelli) [1995]

Written by bluesever

Tuesday, 22 June 2010 14:11 - Last Updated Thursday, 28 November 2013 23:04

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1. Sin: Allegro-Andante-Allegro Molto 2. Recitativo: E Ben: Stupide E Mute 3. Aria: Prenditi Il Figlio! 4. Recitativo: Ah, Non Farnir Si Presto 5. Aria: Son Lunghi E Non Mi Brama 6. Recitativo: Che Vi Par Della Scena? 7. Aria: Non Sperar, Non Lusingarti 8. Recitativo: Che Amabil Pastorella! 9. Aria: Ad Un Riso, Ad Un'occhiata 10. Recitativo: Che Ti Sembra, Silango 11. Quartetto: Voli Il Piede In Lieti Giri! Alexandrina Milcheva - Mezzo Soprano Kaaren Erickson – Soprano Marga Schiml - Alto Thomas Moser – Tenor Munich Radio Symphony Orchestra Lamberto Gardelli – conductor

Le Cinesi was the first to be composed by Christoph Gluck. It is a one act opera to a libretto by Metastasio, the reigning opera seria librettist of the day. It was written for the Empress of Austria and premiered in the theater of Prince von Saxe-Hildburghausen, who employed Gluck at his court. An extravagant and exotic production, it drew on the taste of eighteenth century audiences for chinoiserie. Gluck even uses bells, tambourines, small drums, and other instruments to imitate Chinese music and set the mood in the opening sinfonia. The story takes place in China, and is about three Chinese girls.

The forms used in the opera are derived from the old, which means that the recitative and arias are kept separate. The recitative is used for moments of action, and the arias are showy expressions of emotion. But within the composition Gluck writes in the style of the pastoral, the tragedy, and in amorous and buffo operatic styles, and gives each scena great depth of expression. The story is a lighthearted comedy about three bored young girls who pass the time away by play acting with a male friend. Each girl and the young man in turn have their own recitative and aria in a mini scena, in the style which they have chosen to represent. After the play acting is over, they discuss which style is best, can't agree, and end the opera in a dance.

---Rita Laurance, Rovi

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