

## Gasparini - Ambleto (Hamlet) [RAI 1971]

Written by bluesever

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1 - 43. *Ambleto* Ildegarda - Francine Girones Gerlinda - Bruna Rizzoli Veremonda - Giovanna Santelli Ambleto - Elena Zilio Valdemaro - Carlo Gaifa Fengone - Leonardo Monreale Orchestra Alessandro Scarlatti della RAI Herbert Handt - conductor Napoli, 30.9.1971

Francesco Gasparini's *Ambleto* (Hamlet), having been played throughout Europe, was taken to London in 1712 by the celebrated castrato Nicolini but quickly disappeared from the scene. ---britannica.com

*Amleto*, an opera by Zeno and Gasparini, was brought out in 1711. Dr. Burney says it was written for Venice, but was produced at the Queen's Theatre in London, and the overture at the Queen's Theatre in London, and the overture had four movements ending with a jig. ---hamlet-shakespeare.com

A prolific composer of operas, Gasparini belonged to The Accademia Filharmonic and was a pupil in the home of Legrenzi. (It is possible that Michelangelo and Francesco Gasparini were his brothers.) Finding himself in the company of Corelli and Pasquini, Gasparini learned a great deal from their tutelage and later taught Scarlatti. The first opera, "Il Roderico" was performed in

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Rome (1694) and a year later Gasparini published a set of cantatas. Due to the exceptional quality of his work, he obtained the position of master of the chorus at the Ospedale della Pieta in Venice and was responsible for hiring Vivaldi as the violin master. By 1713 Gasparini had settled in Rome and became master of the chapel at S. Lorenzo. His composition of new operas was continuous but production drastically subsided after 1720. Cantatas by this important composer were expressive, cultured, refined and skillfully arranged. His arias were mostly structured in the de capo formula and homophonically harmonized. His sacred music also retains a place in musical history for their independent instrumental parts. Students of Gasparini included Quantz and the Marcellos. ---Keith Johnson, Rovi

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