

Alessandro Scarlatti – Telemaco (2005)

Written by bluesever

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01. Act I 02. Act II 03. Act III Calipso: Johanna Stojkovic (soprano) Antiope (Erifile): Elisabeth Kulman (soprano) Telemaco: Corby Welch (tenor) Adrasto: Mariselle Martinez (mezzo-soprano) Sicoreo: Gunther Schmid (alto) Mentore/Nettuno: Kresimir Spicer (tenor) Tersite: Andreas Winkler (tenor) Silvina: Netta Or (soprano) Minerva: Sylvia Hamvasi (soprano) Balthasar Neumann Chor und Ensemble Thomas Hengelbrock – conductor Rokoko Theater, Schwetzingen 29.IV.2005 FM-broadcast Radio 4 (NL) 11.VI.2005

Telemaco belongs to the group of operas composed in Scarlatti's late Roman period. It was premiered at the Teatro Capranica for the Roman Carnivale of 1718. One of his finest operas, it was written at a time when Scarlatti's fame and popularity were waning. Scarlatti himself numbered Telemaco his one hundred and ninth opera.

This opera is on a much grander scale than most of Scarlatti's operas. It features gods and goddesses on machines, opulent scenery, incantations, and magic. The opening scene acts as a prologue, and sets up the subsequent action of the drama. For Neptune's entrance, the regular instruments of the orchestra are supplemented by horns, oboes, and bassoon. Minerva descends in a chariot which contains a string band with trumpets. They play along with the orchestra in the pit to make her entrance Their final duet, in which Neptune agrees to leave Ulisse and Telemaco in peace, uses both the on stage orchestra and the orchestra in the pit, sometimes playing in antiphony. At the very end of the opera, when Telemaco must invoke the aid of Minerva against Calipso, she returns, again to sumptuous music. Though not as grand as the opening, the orchestration recalls her initial entrance with the use of horns and oboes doubling the violins. ---Rita Laurence, Rovi

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