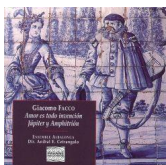


## Giacomo Facco - Amor Es Todo Invencion Jupiter y Amphitrión (2001)



Disc: 1 1. Amor es todo invención, Júpiter y Amphitrión, opera: Act 1.: 'Pues relámpago' 2. Amor es todo invención, Júpiter y Amphitrión, opera: Act 1.: 'Pues el ventor' 3. Amor es todo invención, Júpiter y Amphitrión, opera: Act 1.: 'Aún más que impelida' 4. Amor es todo invención, Júpiter y Amphitrión, opera: Act 1.: 'Poderoso Cupido' 5. Amor es todo invención, Júpiter y Amphitrión, opera: Act 1.: 'Vence el vivo' 6. Amor es todo invención, Júpiter y Amphitrión, opera: Act 1.: 'Pero cielos que veo' 7. Amor es todo invención, Júpiter y Amphitrión, opera: Act 1.: 'Favoreceme Cupido' 8. Amor es todo invención, Júpiter y Amphitrión, opera: Act 1.: 'Veamos pues Cupido' 9. Amor es todo invención, Júpiter y Amphitrión, opera: Act 1.: 'Ven aurora apacibile' 10. Amor es todo invención, Júpiter y Amphitrión, opera: Act 1.: 'Pareze que rendida' 11. Amor es todo invención, Júpiter y Amphitrión, opera: Act 1.: 'Quién se ausenta' 12. Amor es todo invención, Júpiter y Amphitrión, opera: Act 1.: 'Oy amigos es el día' 13. Amor es todo invención, Júpiter y Amphitrión, opera: Act 1.: 'Al choque violento' 14. Amor es todo invención, Júpiter y Amphitrión, opera: Act 1.: 'Guerra que mi furor' 15. Amor es todo invención, Júpiter y Amphitrión, opera: Act 1.: 'Ah perros tyranos' 16. Amor es todo invención, Júpiter y Amphitrión, opera: Act 1.: 'Victoria Amphitrión' 17. Amor es todo invención, Júpiter y Amphitrión, opera: Act 1.: 'A tus plantas divina Alchmena' 18. Amor es todo invención, Júpiter y Amphitrión, opera: Act 1.: 'Vuestra Música' 19. Amor es todo invención, Júpiter y Amphitrión, opera: Act 1.: 'Qué mal suena a mi oido' 20. Amor es todo invención, Júpiter y Amphitrión, opera: Act 1.: 'A ti dueño divino' 21. Amor es todo invención, Júpiter y Amphitrión, opera: Act 1.: 'Cielos que es lo que escucho' 22. Amor es todo invención, Júpiter y Amphitrión, opera: Act 1.: 'Que admira'

Disc: 2 1. Amor es todo invención, Júpiter y Amphitrión, opera: Act 1.: 'Válgame el justo Cielo' 2. Amor es todo invención, Júpiter y Amphitrión, opera: Act 1.: 'Por un lado' 3. Amor es todo invención, Júpiter y Amphitrión, opera: Act 1.: 'Padezcan todos' 4. Amor es todo invención, Júpiter y Amphitrión, opera: Act 1.: 'Dextar tus ojos bellos' 5. Amor es todo invención, Júpiter y Amphitrión, opera: Act 1.: 'Solo ceños' 6. Amor es todo invención, Júpiter y Amphitrión, opera: Act 1.: 'Todo es dudar' 7. Amor es todo invención, Júpiter y Amphitrión, opera: Act 1.: 'Ha del centro' 8. Amor es todo invención, Júpiter y Amphitrión, opera: Act 1.: 'Ya te responden del golfo' 9. Amor es todo invención, Júpiter y Amphitrión, opera: Act 1.: 'Que es Jove' 10. Amor es todo invención, Júpiter y Amphitrión, opera: Act 1.: 'Sonar Tritones:' 11. Amor es todo invención, Júpiter y Amphitrión, opera: Act 1.: 'Amado hijo Cupido' 12. Amor es todo invención, Júpiter y Amphitrión, opera: Act 1.: 'Al ayre deseos' 13. Amor es todo invención, Júpiter y Amphitrión, opera: Act 2.: 'Cuando acabas de nacer' 14. Amor es todo invención, Júpiter y Amphitrión,

*opera: Act 2.: 'Dónde vamos Creusa' 15. Amor es todo invención, Júpiter y Amphitrión, opera: Act 2.: 'Sí cantaré' 16. Amor es todo invención, Júpiter y Amphitrión, opera: Act 2.: 'Ya del día gozamos' 17. Amor es todo invención, Júpiter y Amphitrión, opera: Act 2.: 'Ya abrió Morfeo' 18. Amor es todo invención, Júpiter y Amphitrión, opera: Act 2.: 'Quién me llama?' 19. Amor es todo invención, Júpiter y Amphitrión, opera: Act 2.: 'Apagando la luz' 20. Amor es todo invención, Júpiter y Amphitrión, opera: Act 2.: 'A Dios Morfeo'*

Disc: 3

*1. Amor es todo invención, Júpiter y Amphitrión, opera: Act 2.: 'Si verme te permito' 2. Amor es todo invención, Júpiter y Amphitrión, opera: Act 2.: 'Ríndate gran Señor' 3. Amor es todo invención, Júpiter y Amphitrión, opera: Act 2.: 'Acaba pues' 4. Amor es todo invención, Júpiter y Amphitrión, opera: Act 2.: 'Alchmena donde irá' 5. Amor es todo invención, Júpiter y Amphitrión, opera: Act 2.: 'Seguirle quiero' 6. Amor es todo invención, Júpiter y Amphitrión, opera: Act 2.: 'Corre la nave' 7. Amor es todo invención, Júpiter y Amphitrión, opera: Act 2.: 'Pero Alcmena viene' 8. Amor es todo invención, Júpiter y Amphitrión, opera: Act 2.: 'Según Creusa siente' 9. Amor es todo invención, Júpiter y Amphitrión, opera: Act 2.: 'Alchmena tan sola' 10. Amor es todo invención, Júpiter y Amphitrión, opera: Act 2.: 'A Dios dinero' 11. Amor es todo invención, Júpiter y Amphitrión, opera: Act 2.: 'Soledad apacible' 12. Amor es todo invención, Júpiter y Amphitrión, opera: Act 2.: 'Un aura lisongera' 13. Amor es todo invención, Júpiter y Amphitrión, opera: Act 2.: 'Passion mia cruel' 14. Amor es todo invención, Júpiter y Amphitrión, opera: Act 2.: 'Soplos de huracán' 15. Amor es todo invención, Júpiter y Amphitrión, opera: Act 2.: 'A que te despidió' 16. Amor es todo invención, Júpiter y Amphitrión, opera: Act 2.: 'No te ausentes' 17. Amor es todo invención, Júpiter y Amphitrión, opera: Act 2.: 'Yo he de ver' 18. Amor es todo invención, Júpiter y Amphitrión, opera: Act 2.: 'Sigue mi huella' 19. Amor es todo invención, Júpiter y Amphitrión, opera: Act 2.: 'En este hermoso pensil' 20. Amor es todo invención, Júpiter y Amphitrión, opera: Act 2.: 'No dices' 21. Amor es todo invención, Júpiter y Amphitrión, opera: Act 2.: 'Duerme que el zéfiro' 22. Amor es todo invención, Júpiter y Amphitrión, opera: Act 2.: 'Cielos ya está dormido' 23. Amor es todo invención, Júpiter y Amphitrión, opera: Act 2.: 'Albricas' 24. Amor es todo invención, Júpiter y Amphitrión, opera: Act 2.: 'Seguidme' 25. Amor es todo invención, Júpiter y Amphitrión, opera: Act 2.: 'Pues felicidades'*

Ensemble Albalonga Vocals - Vincenzo di Donato, Luca Dordolo, Gian Paolo Fagotto, Adriana Fernandez, Bianca Simone, Patrizia Vaccari Conductor - Anibal Cetrangolo

Anibal Cetrangolo is not only the director of the Ensemble Albalonga, he is also an expert on the Italian composer Giacomo Facco who fetched up at the Spanish court in Madrid in 1713. Facco had already composed three operas for the viceregal court in Sicily, and it was not long before he was collaborating with Spanish composers on operas for important events at the court of Philip V.

The libretto for Amor es todo invención was provided by the court poet José de Cañizares: it

tells the tale, suitably modified for a court celebration, of Jupiter's attempt to seduce Alcmena by adopting the guise of her husband, the soldier Amphitrion. Confusion ensues, and the intricacies of the plot and emotional chaos that arises provide plenty of opportunities for drama. In addition, the stage directions make clear the importance of the spectacular element: not only gods and goddesses such as Cupid, Neptune and Venus, but also allegorical figures such as Silence and Tranquillity, Night and Dawn, make timely appearances. Facco's music is never less than interesting, and quite often inspired, notably in the two poignant arias sung by the increasingly distraught Alcmena, an enchanting echo song and a potentially beautiful dawn chorus. The recitative and arias are thoroughly Italian – with elements familiar from the operas of Alessandro Scarlatti, Vivaldi and Handel – but the eight-part choruses reveal that Facco was also well versed in the local Spanish idiom of the villancico. Cetrangolo claims this work to be the earliest extant Italian opera for the Madrid court; even if that is a matter for some dispute, it is clearly a piece worth reviving.

What a pity, then, that this recording does it few favours. The performance has a certain amount of raw energy which works quite well at first, but becomes more irritating as the opera – in two acts, but with over three hours of music – progresses. For there is little sense of dramatic development or characterisation, and even less shaping in the singing and playing, which is just about acceptable but no more; probably the best singing comes, luckily, from Adriana Fernández as Alcmena. Then there are some really eccentric moments, such as when Amphitrion is driven to the verge of madness: the quirky realisation of his aria here would be enough to tip anyone over the edge. Almost every tempo feels wrong, and the pacing of the whole – even down to the gaps left between numbers – is so patchy as to be quite unsettling.

As for the accompanying booklet, the Spanish libretto is littered with errors, with characters' names often omitted, making a confusing story even more so. The text is presented only in Spanish and Italian – a detailed synopsis of the plot in at least one other language, French or English, would have been helpful. Cetrangolo's intentions are admirable, but this is an opportunity lost: I would very much like to hear this work in a more polished and convincing performance. ---gramophone.co.uk

Giacomo Facco was an Italian Baroque violinist, conductor and composer. One of the most famous Italian composers of his day, he was completely forgotten until 1962, when his work was discovered by composer, conductor and musicologist Uberto Zanolli. Facco wrote a cycle of twelve concertos for violin, strings and organ with the title of *Pensieri Adriarmonici* (Thoughts Adriarmonicous), published in Amsterdam, the first book in 1716 and the second in 1718. He

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also wrote solo cantatas—on his own texts, for he was a skilled poet—these were found at the National Library of Paris, and were presented by soprano Betty Fabila for the first time (conducted by Uberto Zanolli) in 1962 at the Castle of Chapultepec in Mexico City. Facco must have composed numerous sacred works for the Royal Chapel in Madrid, but this music was probably destroyed, along with many other compositions, in the fire of 1734. Much of the information about Facco's life and works was discovered by Uberto Zanolli, an Italian-Mexican composer who found Facco's *Pensieri Adriarmonici* at the Vizcain Library in Mexico City in 1962. Since then, Zanolli has worked on putting together a biography of Facco and a musicological recovery of his work. Among other finds was Facco's birth certificate.

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