



Based on an epic poem by Niccolò Forteguerra and set in the times of the Crusades, *Ricciardo e Zoraide* is a drama full of infatuations and jealousy, imprisonment and murderous plots, concluding with a gallant rescue and a benevolent outcome. The problems of such a complex and intense libretto were solved by Rossini through sheer dramatic skill, sophisticated melodic inventiveness, an emphasis on contrasts between dark and light, and the innovative and extensive use of on-stage musicians. This rarely heard opera is a true *bel canto* feast that reinvents the long tradition of chivalrous tales that still fascinate us today.

SWR» CLASSIC

**Gioachino
 ROSSINI**

(1792–1868)

ROSSINI
 in WILDBAD
Belvedere, Opernforum

Ricciardo e Zoraide

Dramma serio in two acts • Libretto by Francesco Maria Berio di Salsa
 after *Ricciardetto*, by Niccolò Forteguerra

Agorante, King of Nubia, infatuated with Zoraide Randall Bills, Tenor
 Zoraide, daughter of Ircano, in love with Ricciardo Alessandra Marianelli, Soprano
 Ricciardo, a Christian paladin knight, in love with Zoraide Maxim Mironov, Tenor
 Ircano, a Nubian prince Nahuel Di Piero, Bass
 Zomira, wife of Agorante Silvia Beltrami, Mezzo-soprano
 Ernesto, friend of Ricciardo, Christian camp ambassador Artavaszd Sargsyan, Tenor
 Fatima, confidante of Zoraide Diana Mian, Soprano
 Elmira, confidante of Zomira Anna Brull, Mezzo-soprano
 Zamorre, confidant of Agorante Bartosz Żołubak, Tenor

Camérata Bach Choir, Poznań • Chorus-master: Ania Michalak
Virtuosi Brunensis (Karel Mitáš, Artistic Director)
José Miguel Pérez-Sierra

CD 1 Sinfonia & Introduction **8:41** CD 2 Act I (conclusion) **17:00** CD 3 Act II (conclusion) **64:30**
 Act I (beginning) **61:59** Act II (beginning) **13:31**

Live recording of a concert performance produced by ROSSINI IN WILDBAD for the XXV Festival (Artistic director: Jochen Schönleber) at the Trinkhalle, Bad Wildbad, Germany, 15th-20th July 2013 • A 2013 Südwestrundfunk Production, licensed from SWR Media Services GmbH • Executive producer: Jochen Schönleber • Recording producer: Siegbert Ernst

Engineer: Norbert Vossen, Siggie Mehne • Editor: Dr. Anette Sidhu-Ingenhoff • Booklet notes: Stefano Piana
 Synopsis: Reto Müller • Critical edition: Federico Agostinelli and Gabriele Gravagna, Fondazione Rossini, Pesaro in collaboration with Casa Ricordi, Milan • The Italian libretto may be accessed at www.naxos.com/libretti/660419.htm

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 Booklet notes and Synopsis in English
 Kommentär und Inhaltsangabe auf Deutsch
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