

OPUS ARTE

AGOSTINO STEFFANI



ROYAL
OPERA
HOUSE

THE ROYAL OPERA

AGOSTINO STEFFANI

NIOBE

REGINA DI TEBE



VÉRONIQUE GENS
JACEK LASZCZKOWSKI

BALTHASAR-NEUMANN-ENSEMBLE
CONDUCTOR THOMAS HENGLBROCK | DIRECTOR LUKAS HEMLEB

BBC
RADIO



OA CD9008 D

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NIOBE, REGINA DI TEBE

Alastair Miles as *Poliferno*; Iestyn Davies as *Creonte*



NIOBE, REGINA DI TEBE

AGOSTINO STEFFANI 1654-1728

World Premiere Live Recording

Agostino Steffani was a world-famous court composer during his lifetime and a significant influence on such great figures as Handel, J.S. Bach and Telemann, but after his death his music fell into neglect. His musically rich and emotionally intense fifth opera *Niobe, regina di Tebe*, was revived in 2008, thanks to conductor and Baroque specialist Thomas Henglebrock. In Lukas Hemleb's acclaimed production, here performed by The Royal Opera, Véronique Gens is 'delectable' and 'seductive' as the proud queen punished for defying the gods. Gens is supported by Jacek Laszczkowski, whose 'astonishing power at the top of the voice ... [gives] an exciting approximation of what the castrato could do' (*Independent*). This live recording from 2010 does full justice to Steffani's once-forgotten masterpiece.

Niobe Véronique Gens
Anfione Jacek Laszczkowski
Creonte Iestyn Davies
Poliferno Alastair Miles
Nerea Delphine Galou
Tiberino Lothar Odinius
Manto Amanda Forsythe
Tiresia Bruno Taddia
Clearte Tim Mead

Balthasar-Neumann-Ensemble

Conductor Thomas Hengelbrock
Director Lukas Hemleb
Set and lighting designs Raimund Bauer
Costume designs Andrea Schmidt-Futterer
Choreography Thomas Stache



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A Royal Opera House production in association with the BBC

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Tim Mead as *Clearte*

