

MUSICA FIORITA

San Alessio by Camilla de Rossi detta La Romana

An oratorio - or a clandestine opera

The composer:

We know almost nothing of the life of Camilla de Rossi. The place and date of her birth are just as unknown to us as when and where she died. However, it is clear that she lived at the imperial court in Vienna, during the rule of Joseph I. There she wrote four oratorios; the last one, called "San Alessio" was written in 1710. The addition of "detta La Romana" to her name, on the title page of the hand-written score, is the evidence that she could've lived in Rome from time to time.

The subject of the work:

The libretto of "San Alessio" tells the legend of Saint Alexius. He was born into a well-off family and on his wedding day he heard the voice of God, telling him to abandon all worldly pleasures from that moment on. He abandoned his bride and departed on a long journey. Later, he returned to Rome to live under his parent's palace, as a poor beggar, unrecognized by them.

The music:

Camilla de Rossi illustrates with her music exactly what the libretto sketches: men of flesh and blood, who reveal in their arias their innermost feelings, as zest and joy of life, reverence for God, love, disappointment, thirst for revenge and pain. The complex composition of each voice, the variety of sound colors and the diversity of instrumentation are characteristic of the oratorios by Camilla de Rossi.

Performers:

Bride
Mother
Alessio
Father
Harpichordist and Conductor

Rosa Dominguez (Soprano)
Agnieszka Kowlaczyk (Soprano)
Martin Oro (Countertenor)
Jens Weber (Tenor)
Daniela Dolci
Ensemble MUSICA FIORITA (9 instrumentalists)