



CENTRUM BAROKNÍ KULTURY

Hof-Musici

Festival of Baroque Arts in Český Krumlov 2018

XI year

Contemporary world premiere of Baroque opera

Antonio Gianettini:

L'Ingresso alla Gioventù di Claudio Nerone

Dramma per Musica

Libretto: Giambattista Neri

Festive opera presented in Modena in 1692 on the occasion of the marriage
of Francesco II d'Este and Margherita Farnese.

Antonio Gianettini (ca. 1648–1721) is a lesser known composer today, although in his time he was a renowned master and held important music positions in the important centers of what was then Italy. He received his musical education in Venice, and from 1674 he worked as a bass singer in the St. Mark Basilica choir, where he later gained the position as organist. At the same time, he was also the organist of another important Venice church, Santi Giovanni e Paolo. In addition to his ecclesiastical services, he was also an excellent opera composer – he wrote about ten operas for various Venetian theaters. From 1686 until his death, he was *maestro di cappella* of the Duke d'Este family in Modena. Mostly during the reign of Francesco II d'Este, Modena was a renowned center for opera and oratory production; the Duke's orchestra (*Cappella Ducale di Modona*) brought together a number of outstanding composers, singers, and instrumentalists.

The festive opera **L'Ingresso alla Gioventù di Claudio Nerone** is one of Gianetti's most important works. The theme is based on an episode of the ascent of Emperor Neron to power according to the accounts of the Roman historian Publius Cornelius Tacitus. This theme, offering rich insights into court life and the political situation of the time, was very popular during the Baroque era. The well-known operas Monteverdi's *L'Incoronazione di Poppea* and Händel's *Agrippina* fall into this category today.

The basis for study of the opera is a manuscript score uniquely preserved in Modena (*Biblioteca Estense Universitaria di Modena*) and a copy of the printed libretto that also served as a program for the Modena performance in 1692, also stored there.

Performance dates at the Český Krumlov Castle Theater:

Friday 21 September 2018, 18:00

Saturday 22 September 2018, 17:00

Sunday 23 September 2018, 17:00

Performers:

Soloists, Hof-Musici Baroque orchestra, stage direction and Baroque gesticulation Zuzana Vrbová, directed from the harpsichord by Ondřej Macek.