

## Baroque Jewels II

### A Continuing Comparative Study of Operas by Handel, Vivaldi and Other Baroque Masters on Related Themes

13 weeks beginning on September 19/20, 2012

This unique course will continue the study of selected works of the two great composers of Italian Baroque opera, George Frideric Handel (1685-1759) and Antonio Vivaldi (1678-1741), as well as of two other baroque masters Monteverdi and Gluck, to compare the approaches of each to operas on a similar subject or libretto.

The core of this course, as in Baroque Jewels I, will be a comparison of such varied interpretations of the same work by Handel and Vivaldi as the following:

- Handel's *Giustino* (1737) and Vivaldi's *Il Giustino* (1724)
- Handel's *Partenope* (1730) and Vivaldi's *Rosmira Fedele* (1735) \*
- Handel's *Ariodante* (1735) and Vivaldi's *Ginevra* (1735)

Additionally, the course will examine how baroque composers have themselves reworked or completely rewritten their own earlier works on the same subject. Among these will be the following:

- Handel, *Aci, Galatea e Polifemo* (Naples, 1708); *Acis and Galatea* (London, 1718)
- Vivaldi, *Farnace* (Pavia, 1730); *Farnace* (1738, Ferrara)
- Vivaldi, *Orlando Finto Pazzo* (Venice, 1714); *Orlando Furioso* (Venice, 1727)
- Gluck, *Orfeo ed Euridice* (Vienna, 1762); *Orphee et Euridice* (Paris, 1774) \*

As time permits, the course will also examine varied settings of libretti by Pietro Metastasio, beginning with settings of *Ezio* by Handel (in 1731) and Gluck (in 1750), concluding with settings by more than twenty composers of his most popular libretto, *L'Olimpiade*, receiving numerous revivals in this Olympic year.

\*N.B. With an eye to the highly anticipated Boston Baroque performance of Handel's *Partenope* in October, this delightful "anti-heroic" opera will receive special attention. In addition, the legend of Orfeo will have an expanded focus by examining also Claudio Monteverdi's groundbreaking masterpiece of 1600, *Orfeo*, to be performed by the Boston Early Music Festival in late November.

Baroque Jewels I is not a prerequisite; Baroque Jewels II will enchant on its own. Come join us for a fall full of baroque treats.