



ARS-MINERVA

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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ARS MINERVA proudly presents

LA CLEOPATRA

Modern World Premiere of Lost 17th Century Opera

Saturday & Sunday, March 14 & 15, 2015

Marines' Memorial Theater, 609 Sutter Street, San Francisco, CA

SAN FRANCISCO, JANUARY 8, 2015---Ars Minerva, a new non-profit arts organization committed to reviving forgotten musical treasures, presents the modern world premiere of Daniele da Castrovillari's opera *La Cleopatra*. The performances will be held at the Marine's Memorial Theater, 609 Sutter Street, San Francisco, on Saturday, March 14, at 7:30pm and Sunday March 15 at 2pm. Tickets are \$55 & \$96 general admission for the Saturday evening performance, and \$55 & \$85 general admission for the Sunday matinee. Premium tickets, with a backstage reception among the artists, are available for \$250. A limited number of balcony tickets for students are offered at \$25. For more information visit www.arsminerva.org. Tickets are available through www.cityboxoffice.com.

La Cleopatra was created for the celebration of Venice's Carnival and has been lost in the archives of Biblioteca Marciana since its premiere in 1662. Bearing the name of the femme fatale whose legend has been recounted for centuries, this surprising rediscovered version provides a hefty dose of the unexpected. Castrovillari and his librettist Giacomo dall'Angelo conjure up a lively salmagundi of romance, jealousy, skullduggery, sensuality, comedy, political catastrophe and attempted murder, climaxing in a surprise ending that is entirely in the spirit of *Carnevale*.

Ars Minerva's ensemble of talented young baroque specialists features many former students of the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, both singers and musicians, including three current students singing supportive roles. "We think that it is extremely important to include young artists in our production, but also to bring opera and baroque opera to young audiences," explains Céline Ricci, Ars Minerva founder and artistic director. Ms. Ricci performs the role of Cleopatra. The supporting cast features Randall Scotting as Marc Antonio, with sopranos Nell Snidas and Jennifer Ellis Kampani, mezzo-soprano Molly

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Mahoney, tenor Michael Desnoyers, and baritone Igor Vieira; along with SF Conservatory students, tenor James Hogan, and baritones Xavier Rivera and Spencer Dodd.

The discovery of *La Cleopatra* came about at UC Berkley's music library, a little bit by chance. Searching the microfilm department looking for music, Ms. Ricci discovered a collection of baroque Venetian operas that had not been performed since their creation for the Carnival season. "*La Cleopatra* is an amazing find," Ms. Ricci, explains. "The music is very varied, with interesting, captivating and contrasted tunes, totally in the spirit of Carnevale." As a baroque singer, Ms. Ricci has had the privilege to be involved in several opera revivals. "It is a musical adventure but also a human adventure," adds Ricci. "As a musician, it is part of my core values to keep past music alive, especially music that has been forgotten."

About Ars Minerva:

Ars Minerva is a new performing arts nonprofit organization based in San Francisco. The company's first project is the creation of the annual Carnival Series. Ars Minerva will revive operas written for the Carnival during the 17th and the 18th centuries that were never again performed until now, as Ars Minerva Modern World Premieres. *La Cleopatra*, composed for the 1662 Carnival Season, by Franciscan Friar Daniele da Castrovillari, is the company's first production.

Céline Ricci, Ars Minerva Artistic Director, Founder, Singer

Born in Florence of Italian and French parents, Mezzo-Soprano Céline Ricci studied in Paris and continued her post-graduate studies at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London. Selected by renowned conductor William Christie for his academy, Le Jardin des Voix, she was named one of operas promising new talents in 2005 by Opernwelt. During the 2013 - 2014 season Ms. Ricci performed with Akademie für Alte Musik in Sydney and Berlin, Philharmonia Baroque at Lincoln Center and Tanglewood, and with Ars Lyrica at the Berkeley Early Music Festival and in Houston, among other projects. Ms. Ricci has recorded numerous CDs and DVDs and has recently art-directed 2 CDs of French songs for American label Sono Luminus. Future engagements will bring her in London, Sydney, Berlin, New York and Boston.

Cast of *La Cleopatra*

Cleopatra - Céline Ricci
Marc Antonio - Randall Scotting
Ottavia - Nell Snaidas
Coriaspe - Jennifer Ellis Kampani
Arsinoe - Molly Mahoney
Clisterno - Igor Viera
Dolabella/Arante - Spencer Dodd
Augusto - Xavier Rivera
Domitio - James Hogan

Orchestra

Derek Tam - Harpsichord
Adam Cockerham - Theorbo
Gretchen Claassen - Cello
Natalie Carducci - Violin I
Laura Rubinstein Salzedo - Violin II

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CALENDAR LISTING: OPERA/CLASSICAL MUSIC

WHAT: *La Cleopatra*, a modern world premiere of the forgotten 17th century opera by Daniele da Castrovillari created for the Venice Carnival Season; featuring Céline Ricci as Cleopatra and Randall Scotting as Marc Antonio.

WHEN: 1) 7:30pm, Saturday, March 14, 2015
2) 2:00pm, Sunday, March 15, 2015

WHERE: Marines' Memorial Theater, 609 Sutter Street, San Francisco, CA

INFO: visit www.arsminerva.org or email info@arsminerva.org

TICKETS: 1) Saturday Evening: \$55 & \$96 General Admission
2) Sunday Matinee: \$55 & \$85 General Admission
Also available for both performances:
\$250 Premium Ticket includes Backstage Reception with Artists
\$25 - Limited number of balcony tickets for students
Purchase online at www.cityboxoffice.com

RELATED EVENT for *La Cleopatra*

WHAT: Humanities West presents *Salon at the Rex - Bringing Lost Italian Carnival Music to the Stage*

Humanities West teams up with Ars Minerva to present a performance and discussion about the mid-March premiere of the lost Baroque opera, *La Cleopatra*. Join Ars Minerva's Artistic Director and mezzo-soprano **Céline Ricci** and pianist **Derek Tam** for an evening of music and conversation. Meet up in the Library Bar at Hotel Rex for pre-program drinks.

WHEN: 6:00pm, Thursday, March 5, 2015

WHERE: Hotel Rex, 562 Sutter, San Francisco, CA

INFO: www.humanitieswest.org or www.arsminerva.org

TICKETS: \$25 – available at City Box Office www.cityboxoffice.com

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