



Opera Season 2015-2016

## LA DONNA SERPENTE

The fairytale opera by Alfredo Casella for the first time in Torino  
Gianadrea Nosedà conducts the Orchestra and Chorus of the  
Regio in a dreamlike setting directed by Arturo Cirillo

Teatro Regio, Thursday, 14th April, 2016 at 20:00

On Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> April at 20:00, the Regio will stage, for the first time in Turin, the opera *La donna serpente*, by Alfredo Casella. The **Orchestra and Chorus of the Regio** are conducted by **Gianandrea Nosedà**. The opera is directed by **Arturo Cirillo**. The cast that will bring to life this fabulous opera, inspired by fairies, gnomes and goblins, includes, among others: **Piero Pretti**, **Carmela Remigio**, **Erika Grimaldi**, **Francesca Sassu** and **Sebastian Catana**. *La donna serpente* will be the centrepiece of the **Festival Casella**, a project made possible by the City of Turin, which, for two weeks, will unite all musical institutions in Turin, the Cinema Museum and the Teatro Stabile. A refined and fascinating cultural journey that, through music, theatre, cinema and meetings, will, for the first time cast light on the multifaceted figure of Alfredo Casella, who was born in Turin in 1883.

**Gianandrea Nosedà**, a fervent supporter of the Casella production, whose scores he conducted and recorded on numerous occasions, stated: «With *La donna serpente* Casella has composed an opera outside the box by exploiting vivid and creative imagination. Casella created a rupture similar to that which the Vienna School implements with expressionism, with the difference that the stylistic current from which Casella distances himself is the realism».

The opera, a co-production with the Festival della Valle d'Itria, is directed by **Arturo Cirillo**, award-winning actor and director, who says: «Working on *La donna serpente* brought *Il flauto magico* to mind, both fairytale operas have a hint of cruelty where the protagonists are purified through the experience of pain. For me, this similarity is a cause of immense fascination, considering that I love Mozart. My direction, for this opera, is dedicated entirely to its music. The music is not motivated solely by reading the 'libretto', that alone says little, but by listening to the score and being fully aware of it».

The role of Miranda, the protagonist of the opera and the snake woman, will be entrusted to **Carmela Remigio**, a soprano of a clear and bright timbre. She is the ideal interpreter for the vocal style created by Casella. Altidòr, King of Téfliis and Miranda's husband, will be the tenor **Piero Pretti**, artist of remarkable versatility; he is engaged in the difficult passages alternating with moments of pure lyricism that the part requires. Armilla, The King's sister, will be the soprano **Erika Grimaldi**, appreciated for her intense timbre, a role that serves to contrast Farzana's who possesses a more marked lyrical soprano voice. This role has been entrusted to **Francesca Sassu**. The cast counts upon: the baritone **Sebastian Catana** (Demogorgòn), the mezzo-soprano **Anna Maria Chiuri** (Canzade), the tenor **Francesco Marsiglia** (Alditrùf), the baritone **Marco Filippo Romano** (Albrigòr), **Roberto de Candia** (Pantùl), **Donato Di Gioia** (Badur) and **Emilio Marcucci** (primo messo), the tenor **Fabrizio Paesano** (Tartagil), the bass **Fabrizio Beggi** (Togrul) and the soprano **Kate Fruchterman** (the Emerald fairy).

The opera, with a libretto by Cesare Vico Lodovici, from the homonymous tale by Carlo Gozzi, tells the story of Miranda, a fairy who is in love with a mortal, Altidòr. Miranda will live forever with her beloved Altidòr only if, for nine years and one day, she conceals her true identity

from him, and if she obtain his forgiveness for the terrible actions that she will pretend to perform. Miranda fails in her intent and, by virtue of the covenant with Demogorgòn, the King of the Fairies, she is then transformed into a snake. Despite all mishaps, the opera has a happy ending, with a spectacular finale where Altidòr is the main protagonist. *La donna serpente* kept Casella busy from 1928 to 1931. Among the models that the composer kept in mind we highlight the works of Mozart, for the perfect fusion of music and action, then Verdi and Puccini, for the lyrical declamation, and Rossini, perceptible in a few quick steps entrusted to the masks. *La donna serpente* appears as musical reminiscences that Casella let flow freely in his score, a “musical mosaic” in which the speech entangles, as the story develops, with futuristic and decidedly modern harmonies.

The score is structured into a prologue and three acts, subdivided into a number of scenes in which the music flows seamlessly. The opera lasts about two hours, intermission excluded.

This production, staged from 14<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> April for five performances, has the costumes by **Gianluca Falaschi**, the scenes are by **Dario Gessati**, the choreography by **Riccardo Olivier** and lighting by **Giuseppe Calabrò**. Choreographies are performed by the artists of **Fattoria Vittadini**; the **Chorus of the Teatro Regio** is led by **Claudio Fenoglio**. For the performances of *La donna serpente* is taking a special promotion: buying a ticket, the second is offered by the **Amici del Regio**, a great opportunity to listen to a title rarely performed and captivating charm.

The opera will be presented to the public on **Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> April at 17.30** at the Piccolo Regio Puccini with a lecture entitled: “The Snake Woman. Intellectualism and fantasy in Alfredo Casella”, curated by Giorgio Pestelli. Admission is free. The opera will be **broadcast live** by **Rai-Radio 3** on **14<sup>th</sup> Thursday April at 20:00** this broadcast is also included in the **Euroradio** circuit, simultaneously will be a **live TV on Rai5**. As usual you can follow the backstage and discover entertaining facts about interpreters and sceneries by watching the *Pearls of Passion* by Paola Giunti on our website [www.teatroregio.torino.it](http://www.teatroregio.torino.it) or on our YouTube channel: TeatroRegioTorino.

Tickets are sold at the Box Office of the Teatro Regio, piazza Castello 215 - 011.8815.241/242. At Infopiemonte-TorinoCultura. At the Teatro Stabile, or on [www.teatroregio.torino.it](http://www.teatroregio.torino.it). To purchase tickets with a credit card call 011.8815.270. For more information, please call: 011.8815.557.

**Find out more about the Festival Casella visiting [www.teatroregio.torino.it/festivalcasella](http://www.teatroregio.torino.it/festivalcasella)**

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#### PRESS OFFICE

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