

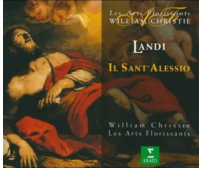
## Stefano Landi - Il Sant'Alessio (1996)

Written by bluesever

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## Stefano Landi - Il Sant'Alessio (1996)



Il Sant'Alessio - Disque : 01    Primeiro Ato    01. *Sinfonia*    02. *Chiaro Giorno Lieta Sorte*    03. *Ne Fur Solo I Miei Figli*    04. *Gia Fastosa Guerriera*    05. *Dopo Tant'anni Al Fine*    06. *Era La Notte*    07. *Sopra Salde Colonne*    08. *Se L'hore Volano*

[play](#)

09. *Poca Voglia Di Far Bene*    10. *Ma Cola Mesto*    11. *Si Disserrino*    12. *Dalla Notte Profonda*    13. *Deh Raffrenate*    14. *Amara, Invida Notte*    15. *Hoime Quel Sospirar*    16. *Dovunque Stassi*    17. *Con Miserabil Sorte*    18. *La Piu Bella Che Sia*

Segundo Ato    19. *Sinfonia*

20. *O Te Felice*    21. *Propitia Arride*    22. *A Dio Tebro*    23. *Ma Che Piu Tardo*    24. *Hor Non Mi Manchi Il Ciel*

Il Sant'Alessio - Disque : 02

01. *Alessio Che Farai?*    02. *Humil Servo*    03. *Alessio, Alessio, A Me Rivolgi Il Guardo*    04. *O Morte Gradita*    05. *Gia Con Desir Costante*    06. *Io Di Vera Pieta Madre*    07. *Quel, Che Sospirano*    08. *Tal, Hor Che Men S'attende*    09. *Rassereniamo Il Cor Con Lieti Auspici*    10. *Il Ciel Pietoso*

Terceiro Ato

11. *Sinfonia*    12. *Mal Si Resiste A Fermo Core*    13. *Dovunque Io Volgo Il Ciglio*    14. *Eccomi Pronto, Ascolta*    15. *Ohime Ch'un' Hora Dola'*    16. *O Mia Cieca Follia*    17. *O Luci Voi*

[play](#)

18. *Foglio, Ch'in Te Racchiudi*    19. *O Pianti, O Dogli Estreme*    20. *Lasciate Il Pianto*    21. *O Mia Consorte*    22. *Vive Alessio*    23. *Il Ciel Vagheggia*    24. *Godi Pur Alma Gradita*

Sant'Alessio - Patricia Petibon - Soprano    Sposa - Sophie Marin-Degor - Soprano    Madre - Cécile Eloir - Mezzo Soprano    Eufemiano - Nicolas Rivenq - Barítono    Demonio - Clive Bayley - Baixo    Curtio - Mhairi Lawson - Soprano    Martio - Steve Dugardin - Contratenor    Nutrice - Katalin Károlyi - Mezzo Soprano    Adrasto - Christopher Josey - Tenor    Roma, Religione - Maryseult Wiczorek - Soprano    Nuntio - Armand Gavriilidès - Contratenor    Angelo - Stéphanie Révidat - Soprano    Uno del Choro - Bertrand Bontoux – Baixo    William Christie – conductor, 1996

Il Sant'Alessio was written in 1631, and thus falls into the same category as Luigi Rossi or

Monteverdi. Its subject is religious and it was produced as part of the current anti-reformation movement, meant to inspire Catholic pride and unity. It tells the story of St. Alexis, son of a Roman nobleman, who in embracing Christianity forsook his pagan family and lived underneath the front stairs of his own home, unknown to his relatives. The Saint's harassment by scornful Romans, his temptation by the devil, and the anguish of his loving family, who do not know what has happened to him, make this an interesting departure from early opera's normal mythological subject matter. Musically, the style is austere, dominated by recitative, with sparse accompaniment, though it is relieved by lovely ritornelli, choruses, and simple, heartfelt arias (Alessio's "O morte gradita" is particularly moving). Christie's conducting and singers are as flawless as always (Patricia Petibon has proven herself in Handel, Mozart, Delibes, and she is as beautiful as always here). The opera's sparseness and intensity may well be difficult for listeners unused to this style, and something like Christie's single-disc recordings of L. Rossi oratorios would be a better introduction to early 17th century vocal music; but for those who know they have an interest in the period, this recording is highly recommended. --- andrew j frishman (Magdalena, New Mexico)

Sant'Alessio is an opera in three acts composed by Stefano Landi in 1631 with a libretto by Giulio Rospigliosi. Sant'Alessio was the first opera to be written on a historical subject. It describes the inner life of fifth-century Saint Alexis. The work broke new ground with a psychological characterization of a type that was new to opera. It also contains interspersed comic scenes that are anachronistically drawn from the contemporary life of Rome in the 17th century.

The first performance of the opera is believed to have taken place at the Palazzo Barberini ai Giubbonari, Rome, on 2 March 1631. A further performance was given at the inauguration of the theatre at the Palazzo Barberini alle Quattro Fontane on 21 February 1632.

The story of the opera begins with Saint Alexis, who has embraced a life of holy poverty, returning from the Holy Land as a beggar to his father's house in Rome. He keeps his identity a secret, even when his wife and mother decide to travel in search of him. He resists the temptations offered by the Devil, with the help of an angel. He dies in the poverty he has chosen, under the steps of his father's house, his identity revealed in a letter he holds as he dies.

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