

Niccolò Jommelli - Berenike, Königin von Armenien - Il Vologeso (Stuttgart,2015)



1. *Il Vologeso (Berenike, Queen of Armenia)* 02:59:50 Sebastian Kohlhepp (Tenor) - Lucio Vero Sophie Marilley (Soprano) - Vologeso Ana Durlovski (Soprano) - Berenice Helene Schneiderman (Mezzo-soprano) - Lucilla Catriona Smith (Soprano) - Flavio Igor Durlovski (Bass) - Aniceto Staatsoperchor Stuttgart Staatsorchester Stuttgart Gabriele Ferro – conductor

On his campaign against the Parthians, Lucio Vero, co-ruler of the Roman emperor Marcus Aurelius, has fallen in love with Berenice, Queen of Armenia. She is the bride of his presumably dead enemy Vologeso. But Vologeso lives. And also Lucilla, the emperor's daughter, is not willing to abandon her claim to the hand of her fiancé Lucio Vero.

On Sunday, February 15, 2015 Niccolò Jommelli's opera *Il Vologeso (Berenice, Queen of Armenia)* was back on an opera stage for the first time in almost 250 years. The first performance of the work took place in 1766 in the German town of Ludwigsburg near Stuttgart, in the then-largest opera house in Europe with a capacity of 3000 seats. At that time Niccolò Jommelli, world-famous composer of operas and liturgical music, had already been Court Music Conductor at the court of Duke Carl Eugen of Württemberg for 13 years. Through his work, Stuttgart had become a major venue of European opera reform.

His opera *Il Vologeso* is based on Apostolo Zeno's libretto *Lucio Vero*, which premiered at the turn of the century 1699/1700 and became one of the most popular opera plots of the 18th century. Between 1700 and 1816 at least 80 different musical versions of the piece originated; the piece was performed in over 100 different versions. The last performance of *Il Vologeso* took place in Lisbon in the year 1769. --- bachtrack.com

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