Pietro Torri - Amadis di Grecia (1998)

CD1 *Tracks 1 - 13* CD2 *Tracks 1 - 13* Melissa - Éva Várhelyi, mezzo-soprano Nicea - Susanne Bernhard, soprano Amadis - Joachim Diessner, countertenor Asprando - Susanne Winter, soprano Arsace - Torbjörn Stalberg, tenor Omiro - Hermann Voges, countertenor Benno Remling, bass-baritone Choir: Students of the Munich and Budapest music academies Neue Hofkapelle München Christoph Hammer - conductor Munich, 1 April, 1998

Despite Pietro Torris's remarkable oeuvre, his works passed into silence – except for some of his chamber music duets. However, most of his scores have survived and are mainly stored in the music section of the Bavarian State Library where they have been waiting for a revival.

The opera was premiered in Munich in 1724 on the occasion of the birth of the Elector's of Bavaria, Maximilian Emanuel, daughter. Pietro Torri was appointed court conductor at the Elector's court in 1715. In 1689, he started his career at Max Emanuel's court as court organist and stayed in the Elector's service until his death.

Except for some involvement as guest conductor in Hanover, he did not leave the court.

At any costs and against the will of the sorcerer Ismedoro does the sorceress Melissa want to gain the love of Amadis. He had defeated her husband at war...

Amadis is wandering around, full of desire for Nicea, who had been abducted by the sorceress Melissa. He arrives at a lovely vale with trees and a brook. Suddenly, he believes to see his

beloved Nicea together with his friend Arsace, who lies at her feet in the shape of Amadis... Stunned by this sight, Amadis cannot believe his eyes and feels cheated...

Melissa loses her mind. This happens because of her love-and-hate relationship to Amadis and after Arsace's death that she is responsible for. She summons the gods of the underworld, believing that they can force Amadis to love her. But the gods refuse to obey. When the dead Arsace announces Melissa's end, she realises that she has lost her magic power and commits suicide. Except for some involvement as guest conductor in Hanover, he did not leave the court.

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