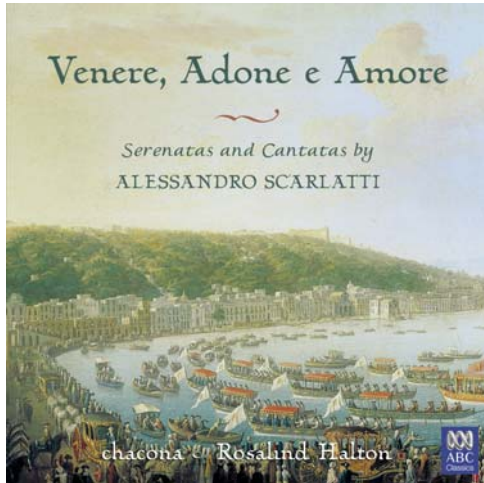


Ensemble led by internationally-renowned scholar releases major 3CD set of exquisite music from Baroque composer Alessandro Scarlatti

Venere, Adone e Amore



Track Listing:

CD 1

- Venere, Adone, e Amore (Venus, Adonis and Cupid)

CD 2

- Lidio e Clori (Lydio and Chloris)
- Filli e Clori (Phyllis and Chloris)
- Perdono, Amor (Forgive me, Love)
- Cantata Pastorale
- Orché di Febo ascosi (Now that the splendid rays of Phoebus)

CD 3

- Olimpia (Olympia)
- Del Tirreno sul Lido (On the short of the Tyrrhenian Sea)
- Silenzio, aure volanti (Be silent, fleeting breezes)
- Bella dama di nome Santa (Fair Lady called Grace)
- E come, oh Dio (How, O God)
- Toccata da cimbalo (Toccata for harpsichord)
- Lontan dall'Idol mio (Parted from my beloved)

All artists including Rosalind Halton are available for interview.

Contact Melissa Kennedy at ABC Classics for details.

Alessandro Scarlatti is admired as one of the greatest vocal composers from Italy. Widely considered the founder of the Neapolitan style of opera, he almost single-handedly invented the Baroque aria structure ('da capo aria') and also cultivated the chamber form of opera called the cantata or serenata. In this highly expressive medium, the 'stories' were performed with chamber-sized accompaniment and usually without staging.

This new 3CD set features 12 distinctive gems drawn from among Scarlatti's 600 cantatas and serenatas. Scarlatti expert Dr Rosalind Halton directs *Chacona* in performances informed by her 20 years of research into this master of the Italian Baroque.

The music and the poetry in Scarlatti's cantatas come from many sources, including classical mythology and Roman history, with characters like Cupid, Venus, Adonis and Olympia. Other cantatas feature Biblical figures (references to the Messiah in Cantata Pastorale) or just lovers, in ecstasy or resignation or pining.

Scarlatti's music depicts this poetry very decisively – interruptions, hesitations, doubts, illusions are all audible in the music. Phrases or words are musically repeated to give animation. Scarlatti uses key colour to depict emotional states, such as sharp keys for agitation and deceit, and flat keys for resignation or sadness. Inherently dramatic, it contains within it the beginnings of modern opera.

chacona was formed by **Rosalind Halton** (harpsichord), **Lucinda Moon** (violin) and **Jamie Hey** (cello) in 1997 to performed rare Italian Baroque music. Artistic director Rosalind Halton has been performing and researching Scarlatti's music since receiving her Oxford University DPhil in the 1980s, published over 30 editions and edited all works on this CD from manuscript sources. Soloists for this recording include **Jane Edwards** (soprano), **Miriam Allan** (soprano), **Tessa Miller** (soprano), **Vivienne Hamilton** (soprano) and **James Sanderson** (countertenor).

3CD set available now