

**For Easter Fabio Bonizzoni & La Risonanza tour to
Seville, Madrid and Cuenca with
Cuban soprano Yetzabel Arias Fernandez**



26 March, 7.30 pm - Auditorio Nacional de Musica, Madrid
27 March, 8.30 pm - Centro Cultural Cajazol, Sala Joaquin Turina, Sevilla
29 March, 12noon - Antiguo Convento Carmelitas, Cuenca

Yetzabel Arias Fernandez soprano
La Risonanza
Fabio Bonizzoni - Harpsichord, Organ & Musical Direction

In advance of Easter Italian harpsichordist **Fabio Bonizzoni** and his baroque ensemble **La Risonanza** embark on a Spanish tour to Seville, Madrid and Cuenca together with Cuban soprano **Yetzabel Arias Fernandez** to present a unique programme of sacred Spanish cantatas by Sebastián Durón and José de Torres. Bonizzoni and his award-winning ensemble featured on 23 discs with the Glossa Label, in which Yetzabel Arias Fernandez appeared in the recording of Handel's *Tirsi, Clori e Fileno* and Vivaldi's *La Senna Festeggiante*. She joins the Italian baroque ensemble now for sacred Spanish cantatas. In Seville and Madrid these vocal works will be interspersed with a selection of the well-known Rosary Sonatas for violin and continuo by Heinrich Biber. Following previous appearances La Risonanza returns to Cuenca on Palm Sunday as part of the 54th Religious Music Week of the UNESCO World Heritage City.

Composers Sebastián Durón and José de Torres were contemporaries who wrote many sacred works and both served as organists at the Royal Chapel of King Charles II in Madrid. Durón who was taught composition by his brother Diego, also served as organist and chorus master at the cathedrals of Seville, Cuenca and Valencia.

The Rosary Sonatas are some of Biber's best-known compositions. The Austrian born composer Heinrich Biber is best known for his violin works and the high technical proficiency his works demand. Each of the sonatas, also known as the Mystery Sonatas, is related to the Christian Rosary devotion practice on important moments in the life of Christ. Biber completed the sonatas for violin and continuo in 1676 but they were only rediscovered in

1905. The soloist will perform the works on an instrument tuned in *scordatura*, which means that the violin's strings are tuned in a non-standard way (by fifth) but on different intervals for every sonata. This, far from being just a technical detail, is a way of giving the violin a particular resonating sound for each sonata: a highly expressive tool that enriches the articulation of these masterpieces.

In Cuenca La Risonanza will perform, alongside vocal pieces by Spanish baroque composers Sebastian Durón and José de Torres, instrumental works by their contemporaries Handel and the Italian Vivaldi and Mascitti. The concert takes place in the former Carmelite Convent in Cuenca, which was built in the 17th century for a community of barefoot Carmelite nuns and nowadays houses the Museum of Contemporary Art Antonio Pérez as well as the International University of Menéndez Pelayo.



Biber Sonatas and Sacred Spanish Cantatas

Madrid

26 March, 7.30 pm - Auditorio Nacional de Musica

Sevilla

27 March, 8.30 pm - Centro National, Sala Joaquin Turina

Yetzabel Arias Fernandez soprano

La Risonanza Carlo Lazzaroni - violin

Ana Liz Ojeda Hernandez - violin

Caterina dell' Agnello - cello

Franco Pavan - theorbo

Fabio Bonizzoni harpsichord and director

Programme:

Heinrich Biber Sonata No. 1 in D minor "The Annunciation"

Sebastián Durón "Atiendan, escuchen" cantata for soprano in F major

Heinrich Biber Sonata No. 6 in C minor "The Agony in the Garden"

José de Torres "Ego vir videns" and Lamentación sola, tercera del Jueves Santo

Heinrich Biber Sonata No. 10 in G minor "The Crucifixion"

Sebastián Durón "Corazón, que suspires atento" cantata for soprano in E Minor

Heinrich Biber Sonata No. 12 in D minor "The Ascension"

Concert Listings:

<http://www.cndm.mcu.es>

La Risonanza at 54th Religious Music Week

Cuenca

29 March, 12noon - Foundation Antonio Pérez, Former Carmelite Convent

Yetzabel Arias Fernandez soprano

La Risonanza

Fabio Bonizzoni - Harpsichord & Musical Direction

Programme:

Georg Friedrich Handel Triosonata opus 5 No. 4 in G major

Sebastián Durón “Atiendan, escuchen” cantata for soprano in F major

Antonio Vivaldi Sonata No. 8 in Re minor for two violins and basso continuo

José de Torres “Ego vir videns”, Lamentación tercera del Jueves Santo

Michele Mascitti Passacaglia variata

José de Torres “Ego vir videns” and Lamentación sola, tercera del Jueves Santo

Concert Listing:

<http://www.smrcuenca.es>

La Risonanza - Recent Releases

Fabio Bonizzoni and La Risonanza have released a new recording of Handel’s *Duetti da camera* on the Glossa label, featuring leading soloists **Roberta Invernizzi** and **Marina De Liso**. This follows their CD of Handel’s Neapolitan serenata *Aci, Galatea e Polifemo*, also with Roberta Invernizzi. The recording sessions took place at the historic 7th-Century **Abbey of St-Michel en Thiérache, France**. The cast is completed by renowned French mezzo-soprano **Blandine Staskiewicz** in the role of *Galatea* and Argentinian bass-baritone **Lisandro Abadie** as *Polifemo*.

The musicians also recently released a recording of a collection of opera arias by Vivaldi on the **Glossa** record label. The featured soloist was **Roberta Invernizzi**, an artist known for her style and dramatic vividness in the music of the baroque.

Fabio Bonizzoni’s attention on record to the music of Handel has, thus far, yielded seven discs devoted to the early Italian-texted cantatas. The press and public alike were delighted with the superb series of **Handel cantatas** recorded for **Glossa**. One critic from *Klassik.com* considered the recording “a feast for the ears” and another cantata recording from the same CD series was awarded the top Stanley Sadie Handel Recording Prize in 2010.

Fabio Bonizzoni

Fabio Bonizzoni is one of Italy’s most celebrated harpsichordists and organists. For several years he played with leading orchestras specializing in early music including the Amsterdam Baroque Orchestra, Le Concert des Nations and Europa Galante before pursuing his career as a soloist and director, dedicating himself in particular to his own ensemble La Risonanza.

Having graduated in organ, organ composition and harpsichord in Ton Koopman’s class at the Royal Conservatory in The Hague, Bonizzoni now teaches harpsichord at the Conservatory himself. In Italy he is also harpsichord professor at the Conservatory of Novara in and president of the “Associazione Hendel”, a musicological



society devoted to the studies of Handel's music in his country.

As a soloist, he has recorded many albums on the Spanish label *Glossa* showcasing works by Claudio Merulo, Giovanni Salvatore, Giovanni Picchi, Francesco Geminiani, Bernardo Storace, Domenico Scarlatti and J.S. Bach's Goldberg Variations and the Art of Fugue. His latest release is devoted to the two books of toccatas by Girolamo Frescobaldi.

Bonizzoni is also a sought-after conductor and has appeared with many ensembles throughout Europe. Most notably in April 2011, he was invited to appear as guest conductor of the orchestra of Teatro alla Scala in Milan in the new ballet "*L'altro Casanova*". Recent engagements include conducting the Wroclaw Baroque Orchestra in Poland and the Dutch Bach Society in The Netherlands.

La Risonanza

Founded by Italian harpsichordist Fabio Bonizzoni in 1995, **La Risonanza** champions Italian baroque music composed between the end of the 17th and the first half of the 18th Century. They have already released 23 celebrated CDs in the genre, with the release of Fabio Bonizzoni performing Handel's *Duetti da Camera* being the most recent.

La Risonanza achieved considerable acclaim for their previous CD releases. Most notably, the seven volume series of Handel's Italian Cantatas received a Gramophone Award in 2011 and three Stanley Sadie Handel Recording Prizes. Their CD was Editor's Choice for Gramophone magazine in October 2010 and David Vickers praised the series saying *'Every so often a series comes along where every issue is worthy of inclusion as an Editor's Choice. More than that, it seems an injustice not to include it.'*

Yetzabel Arias Fernandez

Yetzabel Arias Fernandez has been trained both as a singer and choral conductor in Cuba, before finishing her studies at the Accademia Internazionale della Musica in Milan. She has won prizes at the vocal competitions of Chimay, Naples and Rome and has worked mainly with Diego Fasolis, Jordi Savall, Jaap van Zweden and Ottavio Dantone. She regularly collaborates with Fabio Bonizzoni and La Risonanza, with whom she recorded *Tirsi, Clori e Fileno* as part of the award-winning recording of all of Handel's cantatas and *La Senna Festeggiante* of Vivaldi, both for Glossa. Recent engagements include the Christmas Oratorio with Ton Koopman and the Amsterdam Baroque Orchestra and *War and Peace* with Jordi Savall and the Capella Reial de Catalunya.



Glossa Label

Glossa is a classical music label specialising in historically informed performance and with a strong interest in design and editorial excellence. They publish CDs, DVDs and book-CDs and are based in San Lorenzo de El Escorial, Spain. It was started 20 years ago and is run by Carlos Cester.

Prizes for La Risonanza

STANLEY SADIE RECORDING PRIZE

2007 Award Handel Italian Cantatas Vol I *Le Cantate per il Cardinal Pamphili*
2010 Award Handel Italian Cantatas Vol V *Clori, Tirsi e Fileno*
2011 Award Handel Italian Cantatas Vol VII *Apollo e Dafne*

GRAMOPHONE AWARD

2011 Award Handel Italian Cantatas Vol. VII *Apollo e Dafne*

Praise for La Risonanza

***** *'Bonizzoni can take risks where others can't, owing to the brilliance of his musicianship matched with intellect that plumbs the depths of the score.'*
Berta Joncus, BBC Music Magazine, January 2013

***** *'Under Fabio Bonizzoni's stylish direction, the ensemble once more beguiles our senses'*
Nicholas Anderson, BBC Music Magazine, December 2012

***** *'La Risonanza marries instrumental finesse to expressive flair.'*
Graham Lock, Early Music Today, March 2010

'...in Roberta Invernizzi they have a soprano soloist of rare elegance. The sound is superb and the whole disc a jewel among Baroque releases.'
David Denton, Yorkshire Post, 10 July 2009

'another collector's item from Bonizzoni and his dazzling ensemble.'
Hugh Canning, Sunday Times (Review of Handel: Italian Cantatas Vol 4)

'Risonanza are Italian musicians who sing and play idiomatically, with poised precision: a welcome illumination of a neglected corner of musical history.'
Nicholas Kenyon, The Observer, 30 August 2009

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