

**Fabio Bonizzoni and La Risonanza present a new recording of Purcell's *Dido & Aeneas* on Challenge Classics label**



**OUT NOW Purcell CD** | Challenge Classics' *Dido and Aeneas*  
**04 November** | Palazzo Mezzanotte, Milan Stock Exchange  
**24 November** | Palazzina Liberty, Milan

**Award-winning baroque conductor Fabio Bonizzoni** and his orchestra **La Risonanza** release a new recording of Purcell's operatic masterpiece *Dido and Aeneas*, available now on the Challenge Classics label. The CD features the vocal talents of soprano **Raffaella Milanese**, baritone **Richard Helm**, soprano **Stefanie True**, baritone **Iason Marmaras**, soprano **Michela Antenucci** and mezzo-soprano **Anna Bessi**, who have previously performed the work live with Bonizzoni and La Risonanza. Having toured the work internationally in past seasons, Bonizzoni launched his **Note Etiche** series at the Milan Stock Exchange with a free performance of *Dido and Aeneas* in 2014. Following the CD release, this year's **Note Etiche** returns to Milan on **4 November** at **Milan Stock Exchange** and **24 November** at **Palazzina Liberty**.

In search of a dialogue between the disciplines of finance and the arts, Bonizzoni established *Note Etiche* – 'Ethical Notes' - in memory of his wife Chiara Manzoni, a former Sole 24 Ore journalist committed to sustainable finance, who died prematurely in 2012. The first *Note Etiche* featured a series of free events with music and debates on how finance can enrich the soul and society. 2016 has already seen *Note Etiche* expand to France, having opened the annual Forum of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in Paris in June.

Based on the fourth book of Virgil's *Aeneid*, Henry Purcell's first and only all-sung work was first performed in 1689. It is one of the earliest English operas and features Dido's great lament 'When I am laid in earth', a piece whose themes chime with *Note Etiche's* aim to promote ethical behaviour. In 2015 Bonizzoni and La Risonanza performed *Dido and Aeneas* in Bruges in a reconstruction of the original London concert performance of 1704, in which Purcell's masterpiece was preceded by John Eccles and Geoffery Fingers' *The Loves of Mars and Venus*. This seldom-heard and incomplete piece offered a unique occasion for Bonizzoni to rewrite the missing ritornellos and choruses.

Speaking on the significance of their new recording Bonizzoni stressed how *Dido and Aeneas* reflects the human condition, remarking that:

"The charm of this opera is that it contains everything, like Cervantes' *Don Quixote*, every life experience is featured. Love, hate, death, dream, despair, the innocent and the wicked, all play their part."

## NOTE ETICHE LISTINGS 2016

**04 November**

### **MUSICA PER CHIARA**

Johann Sebastian Bach *Cantata for contralto* (sinfonia of Cantata BWV 146), *Widerstehe doch der Sünde* (cantata BWV 54 for alt, strings and basso continuo), *Geist und Seele wird verwirret* (cantata BWV 35 for alt, three oboes, strings, organ and basso continuo)

**Markéta Cukrová** *mezzo-soprano*

**La Risonanza**

**Fabio Bonizzoni** *organ and conductor*

Palazzo Mezzanotte, Milan Stock Exchange (Italy)

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**24 November**

### **WORLDS IN DIALOGUE**

Featuring a selection of pieces by **George Frideric Handel**, **Jean-Baptiste Lully** and **François Couperin**

**Maria Hinojosa Montenegro** *soprano*

**La Risonanza**

**Fabio Bonizzoni** *conductor*

Palazzina Liberty, Milan (Italy)

## **Fabio Bonizzoni & La Risonanza**

Fabio Bonizzoni is one of Italy's most celebrated harpsichord players but dedicates most of his time to his own ensemble **La Risonanza**. 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. He is harpsichord professor at the Royal Conservatory of The Hague. In Italy he is also harpsichord professor at the Conservatory of Novara and president of the "Associazione Handel", a musicological society devoted to the studies of Handel's music in his country.



In 1995 Fabio founded his ensemble **La Risonanza** to champion Italian baroque music composed between the end of the 17th and the first half of the 18th Century. To date they have already released 25 CDs in the genre, for which they received considerable acclaim. 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.

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".

[www.larisonanza.it](http://www.larisonanza.it)

#### **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**

**For more information on any of the above, please contact:**

**Nicky Thomas Media**

101 Bell Street, London NW1 6TL

+44 (0)20 3714 7594 | +44 (0)20 7258 0909

[info@nickythomasmedia.com](mailto:info@nickythomasmedia.com)

[www.nickythomasmedia.com](http://www.nickythomasmedia.com)

