

DOMENICO SCARLATTI 1685-1757
complete stage works



REAL COMPANYIA ÒPERA DE CAMBRA
REAL COMPAÑÍA ÓPERA DE CÁMARA
ROYAL CHAMBER OPERA COMPANY

Juan Bautista Otero

WE START THE 'DOMENICO SCARLATTI' TRILOGY OF COMPLETE OPERAS INCLUDED IN THIS 'BIBLIOTECA' DEVOTED TO HIS GENIUS, WITH HIS FABULOUS INTERPRETATION OF THE 'NARCISSUS' MYTH.

'NARCISO' OVVERO 'AMOR D'UN OMBRA E GELOSIA D'UN AURA' IS AN EXCEPTIONAL OPERA WHICH PRESENTS THE HEDONIST MYTH OF NARCISSUS BASED ON TWO MAIN SOURCES: OVID AND CALDERÓN. IT WAS COMPOSED FOR THE PRIVATE THEATER OF THE POLISH QUEEN MARÍA CASIMIRA AT THE PALAZZO ZUCCARI IN ROME-ON THE TOP OF THE STAIRS AT THE PIAZZA SPAGNA-, AND PERFORMED FOR THE FIRST TIME ON 15 JANUARY 1714. CONSIDERED AS ONE OF THE BEST OPERAS BY DOMENICO SCARLATTI PERFORMED DURING THAT CARNAVAL IN ROME, IT WAS RESTAGED LATER WITH A NEW VERSION OF THE TEXT BY HANDEL'S LIBRETTIST, PAOLO ROLLI, FOR THE ROYAL ACADEMY SEASON IN LONDON, 1720; THE CAST OF SINGERS INCLUDED THE FAMOUS MARGARITA DURASTANTE (NARCISO) AND ANASTASIA ROBINSON (ECO).

THE ORIGINAL LIBRETTO -IN WHICH THE MYTHS OF ECHO AND NARCISSUS TOGETHER WITH CEFALUS AND PROCRIS MINGLE-, REINTEGRATES OVID'S ORIGINAL NARRATION: THE ESSENCE OF NYMPH ECHO'S MISFORTUNED LOVE, NARCISSUS' SCORN AND ARROGANCE, AND THEIR TRAGIC END, WHICH CHARACTER HAS BEEN SUPERBLY DEPICTED BY SCARLATTI'S MUSIC TO UNDERLINE THE MYTH OF YOUTH AND BEAUTY IN THE BAROQUE.

AN ACCURATE NEW REVISED CRITICAL EDITION OF THIS OPERA -PUBLISHED AND EDITED FOR THE FIRST TIME BY OTERO ALREADY IN 2001-, INCORPORATING THE ORIGINAL ENGLISH LIBRETTO AND THE MUSICAL VARIATIONS TO THE ORIGINAL 1714 VERSION.