

EASTERN EARLY MUSIC FORUM

Francesca Caccini: *Ruggiero*

June – July 2010

Tutored by Philip Thorby



“The Liberation of Ruggiero from the Island of Alcina” is the full title of Francesca Caccini’s opera, first performed in Florence in 1625, with a libretto by Ferdinando Saracinielli, based on Ariosto’s *Orlando Furioso*. *Ruggiero* is the first opera known to have been composed by a woman, and was long considered to be the first Italian opera to be performed outside Italy. *Ruggiero* is written in the *stile moderno*, that is, the style of Monteverdi, although the work owes more perhaps to the work of Jacopo Peri. It uses the new *stile recitativo*, as well as canzonettas in the style of the *Concerto delle donne*. The scoring includes a lirone and a trio of recorders.

Philip Thorby will bring this masterpiece back to life for EEMF, over two weekends. On 11-13 June the principal singers and all continuo players will rehearse at Geoff and Jackie Huntingford’s house in Buckinghamshire (sorry, not really EEMF territory!). Then on 2-4 July everyone will gather for a weekend of rehearsal in Westleton Church, Suffolk, with a final run-through (unstaged) on the Sunday afternoon.

Experienced solo singers and players of early baroque instruments are invited to apply for the minor roles and for places in the band; all singers are welcome to apply to sing in the choruses of nymphs, maidens, monsters, enchanted plants and cavaliers. All the teaching sessions will be open to the public, and there will be a modest charge for admission to the final performance.

The work requires experienced solo and choral singers and the following instrumentalists, who could double as chorus singers: 3 violins, 3 low recorders, 4 sackbuts, tenor viol/viola and bass viol; the continuo team requires 2 chitarroni, lirone, harp, bass viol / cello, organ and harpsichord. Pitch will be A=440. Numbers are strictly limited, so please apply as early as possible. Brian Clark has edited the opera especially for us. All participants will need to have their own score; these may be bought direct from Clifford Bartlett (please mention EEMF to benefit from the special rate of £10) at clifford.bartlett@bopenworld.com

The first workshop takes place at 2 The Avenue, Princes Risborough, Bucks, the home of Geoff and Jackie Huntingford, from the evening of Friday 11th June to around 6.00pm on Sunday 13th June. Principals (*Ruggiero*, *Alcina* and *Melissa*) and all continuo players will be required for the whole weekend. The fee of £70 includes tuition, lunches, coffee and tea, and a meal (provided by Jackie and Geoff) on the Friday evening. Joining details and information about accommodation will be sent to those accepted. Singers of the smaller solo roles will be required on the Sunday only, at a modest charge to be confirmed once the timetable has been fixed. Some of the work on Sunday will take place in the nearby White Cross Hall, where observers are welcome to drop in, though we can’t publish a timetable in advance.

The second workshop, for all participants, will begin promptly at 7.00pm on Friday 2nd July, and will end at around 6.00pm on Sunday 4th July; it will be held in the ancient and beautiful thatched church of St Peter in Westleton, Suffolk (near Southwold). The fee of £40 includes tuition, meals, coffee and tea. Participants are responsible for finding their own accommodation. A separate sheet is attached giving details of local accommodation for all budgets, from posh hotels to campsites. A supplement of £10 is payable by participants in the second weekend who are not members of an Early Music Forum: this includes the annual membership subscription for EEMF. Observers are welcome, at a charge of £10 a day, including coffee and tea.

To apply please complete the attached slip and return it to Selene Mills, 5 Tunwell’s Lane, Great Shelford, Cambridge CB22 5LJ (telephone 01223 847330 / info@CambridgeEarlyMusic.org), with a cheque (payable to EEMF), and a stamped, addressed envelope for acknowledgment. I will let you know as soon as it is decided whether your application is successful.

Please complete this slip CAREFULLY and send AS SOON AS POSSIBLE with your cheque and s.a.e. to:
Selene Mills, EEMF, 5 Tunwell’s Lane, Great Shelford, Cambridge CB22 5LJ

I wish to apply to participate in the EEMF *Ruggiero* workshop, [11-13 June 2010 and*] 2-4 July 2010.

Name _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Telephone _____ Mobile _____ E-mail _____

Special diet or access requirements, if applicable _____

Voice: _____ I hope to take a solo vocal part (both weekends) or a chorus vocal part (2nd weekend only)
If not accepted as a vocal soloist, I would like* / do not wish* to sing in the chorus.

Instrument: (continuo band? – YES / NO*) _____ or Observer on Saturday / Sunday*

I am a member of _____ Early Music Forum / Please send EEMF membership details

I enclose a cheque, payable to EEMF, for £ _____, and a s.a.e. for acknowledgment.

*delete as appropriate