

Boston Early Music Festival

INTERNATIONAL BAROQUE OPERA • CELEBRATED CONCERTS • WORLD-FAMOUS EXHIBITION

Boston Early Music Festival
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Boston Early Music Festival wins a Diapason d'Or de l'Année 2015 for Steffani's *Niobe, Regina di Tebe*

Cambridge, MA – The Boston Early Music Festival recording of **Agostino Steffani's *Niobe, Regina di Tebe*** for ERATO/Warner Classics has received a prestigious Diapason d'Or de l'Année for opera in a ceremony held on Thursday, November 26, 2015 in Paris and broadcast on France Musique. This year-end accolade is France's highest honor for classical music recordings with winners decided upon by a distinguished jury of critics and broadcasters. BEMF Artistic Co-Director **Paul O'Dette** was in attendance at the Maison de la Radio in Paris to accept the award.

The award caps off an extraordinary year of international recognition for BEMF's Baroque Opera recordings. BEMF's **Charpentier's *La Descente d'Orphée aux Enfers* and *La Couronne de Fleurs*** for cpo (Classic Produktion Osnabrück), received the 2015 GRAMMY Award for Best Opera Recording, a 2015 ECHO Klassik for Recording of the Year in the 17th/18th Century Opera field, and was shortlisted for a 2015 Gramophone Award. BEMF's 3-CD set of Steffani's *Niobe, Regina di Tebe*, featuring soloists **Philippe Jaroussky** and **Karina Gauvin**, was recognized as the 2015 ECHO Klassik World Premiere Recording of the Year and was also shortlisted for a 2015 Gramophone Award.

STEFFANI'S NIOBE, REGINA DI TEBE

Originally presented as the 2011 Festival Operatic Centerpiece, *Niobe, Regina di Tebe* is the seventh in BEMF's series of Baroque Opera Recordings that have earned four GRAMMY nominations including one GRAMMY Award for Best Opera Recording. Released in January 2015 on the ERATO/Warner Classics label, the 3-CD set is led by Musical Directors **Paul O'Dette** and **Stephen Stubbs** and features a stellar cast including soprano **Karina Gauvin** in the title role of Niobe and countertenor **Philippe Jaroussky** reprising his role as King Anfione from the original 2011 production. BEMF Orchestra Director **Robert Mealy** leads the 35 member BEMF Orchestra and BEMF Opera Director **Gilbert Blin** serves as Drama Coach. The recording has been met with enormous acclaim, including *Gramophone Magazine's* Recording of the Month, a Diapason D'Or, and the 2015 Gramophone Award Shortlist.

ABOUT THE BEMF BAROQUE OPERA PROJECT

One of BEMF's main goals is to unearth and present lesser-known Baroque operas performed by the world's leading musicians armed with the latest information on period singing, orchestral performance, costuming, dance, and staging. BEMF operas reproduce the Baroque's stunning palette of sound by bringing together today's leading operatic superstars and a wealth of instrumental talent from across the globe to one stage for historic presentations, all zestfully led from the pit by the BEMF Artistic Directors Paul O'Dette and Stephen Stubbs, and creatively reimaged for the stage by BEMF Opera Director Gilbert Blin. Since 2008, the BEMF Chamber Opera Series has taken this internationally acclaimed musicianship, scholarship, and direction and focused it on small-scale works in intimate productions each Thanksgiving weekend. Two productions from the Chamber Opera Series have also

been presented on tour across North America: Handel's *Acis and Galatea* in 2011 and Charpentier's *La Descente d'Orphée aux Enfers* and *La Couronne de Fleurs* in 2014.

In 2004, BEMF initiated a series of recordings to preserve its groundbreaking Baroque opera creations and to attempt to fill the gaps in the current discography of Western opera. The first three CDs in the series earned GRAMMY nominations for Best Opera Recording and Charpentier's *La Descente d'Orphée aux Enfers* and *La Couronne de Fleurs* won in this category at the 2015 GRAMMY Awards. An eighth recording, Handel's *Acis and Galatea*, was released in November 2015 on the German label cpo (Classic Produktion Osnabrück).

RESOURCES

Images of BEMF's Artistic Leadership with their GRAMMY Award, ECHO Klassik Awards, and Diapason d'Or de l'Année

http://www.bemf.org/pages/press/images_awards.htm

Images from the original 2011 production of Steffani's *Niobe, Regina di Tebe*

http://www.bemf.org/pages/press/images_niobe.htm

Video of "Sfere amiche" from BEMF's original 2011 production of Steffani's *Niobe, Regina di Tebe*

https://youtu.be/_pbb5S19Vlg

Video of "Trà bellici carmi" from BEMF's original 2011 production of Steffani's *Niobe, Regina di Tebe*

<https://youtu.be/y1ggli-lALk>

ABOUT THE BOSTON EARLY MUSIC FESTIVAL:

Recognized as the preeminent early music presenter and Baroque opera producer in North America, the **Boston Early Music Festival (BEMF)** has been credited with securing Boston's reputation as "America's early music capital" (*The Boston Globe*). Founded in 1981, BEMF offers diverse programs and activities, including one GRAMMY Award-winning and three GRAMMY Award-nominated opera recordings, an annual concert series that brings early music's brightest stars to the Boston and New York concert stages, and a biennial week-long Festival and Exhibition recognized as the "world's leading festival of early music" (*The Times*, London). The 19th Boston Early Music Festival will take place from June 11–18, 2017, and will feature the fully staged performances of André Campra's *Le Carnaval de Venise* as the Centerpiece Opera. BEMF's Artistic Leadership includes Artistic Directors **Paul O'Dette** and **Stephen Stubbs**, Opera Director **Gilbert Blin**, and Orchestra Director **Robert Mealy**.

For more information, images, press tickets, or to schedule an interview, please contact Kathleen Fay at 617-661-1812 or email kathy@bemf.org.

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