

Singing Amarilli Mia Bella: Giulio Caccini and 17th Century Vocal Performance Practice

AMARILLI MIA BELLA is Giulio Caccini's best known work. It is found in his 1602 collection LE NUOVE MUSICHE published in Florence. It is the 8th of 12 Madrigals in a collection which includes excerpts from Caccini's opera IL RAPIMENTO DI CEFALO (THE ABDUCTION OF CEPHALUS) and ten "Canzonette Composte à Aria". It also includes a nine-page preface with instructions and examples of ornamentation and expressive performance practices, such as the use of rubato, dynamics, trills and turns! This lecture will put AMARILLI and its performance in a musically historical context. It aims to aid the teacher and student in the creation of a vital and emotional interpretation based on 17th century concepts supported by 17th-century resources.

The Lecture will explore performance practice questions concerning early baroque vocal music. It will contrast contemporary 17th century manuscript sources and John Dowland's published versions of AMARILLI with Caccini's 1602 version. Modern editions of AMARILLI by Pietro Floridia, John Glenn Paton, Arnold Schering, Theodore Baker and Knud Jeppesen will be examined from an historically informed perspective. 17th century keyboard, instrumental and choral versions of AMARILLI by Peter Philips, Jacob van Eyck and Johann Hermann Schein will be illuminating. Caccini's ornamented model madrigal COR MIO DEH NON LANGUIRE from the Preface to LE NUOVE MUSICHE will be discussed and aspects of its performance applied to AMARILLI. A discussion of other vocal instruction manuals, treatises, and other contemporary sources by Caccini (such as his 1614 NUOVE MUSICHE and the preface to his opera L'EURIDICE) and his contemporaries like Luigi Zenobi, Marco da Gagliano and Claudio Monteverdi, will prove enlightening.

Bass Baritone Andrew Schultze is well known as an interpreter of the standard opera/oratorio repertoire and as a specialist in the performance of early music. Mr. Schultze has presented musical seminars for the National Association of Teachers of Singing, Early Music America, and the Newberry Library. He has given masterclasses and participated in early music workshops for the Society for Seventeenth Century Music, the American Recorder Society, and the Innsbrucker Musik-Institut. From 2008-2013 he taught vocal performance practice at the summer Early Music Institute at Zell an der Pram in Austria. Now retired, Schultze taught voice at the American Conservatory of Music, Roosevelt University, University of Chicago and Columbia College. In June of 2019 he was an artist in residence at Jiangnan University in Wuhan, China.