

One of Donizetti's most emotionally raw operas, *Roberto Devereux ossia Il conte di Essex* was also the third to be loosely based on episodes in the life of Queen Elizabeth I. It deals with the love of Elizabeth and her favourite, the Earl of Essex, perhaps most tellingly expressed in the Act I duet, *Nascondi, frena i palpiti, o misero mio core* / Hide, hold back your palpitation, oh my wretched heart! Elizabeth's subsequent abdication is, however, a matter of dramatic licence, yet provides a memorable operatic conclusion to this tragedy of love and jealousy as she despairs at the death of her lover – *Quel sangue versato al ciel s'innalza* (The blood that is spilt rises up to Heaven). This inaugural production of the Bergamo Music Festival 2006 features the Greek soprano and leading Donizetti specialist, Dimitra Theodossiou, and the young American baritone Andrew Schroeder, both in superb voice.



Gaetano DONIZETTI

(1797–1848)

Roberto Devereux

Elizabeth, Queen of England Dimitra Theodossiou
 The Duke of Nottingham Andrew Schroeder
 Sara, Duchess of Nottingham Federica Bragaglia
 Robert Devereux, Earl of Essex Massimiliano Pisapia
 Lord Cecil Luigi Albani
 Sir Walter Raleigh Giorgio Valerio
 A Page / A Servant Tommaso Norelli



Orchestra and Chorus of the Bergamo Musica Festival

Marcello Rota

Chorus Master: Corrado Casati



CD 1 [1]–[14] Act 1 54:39 • CD 2 [1]–[5] Act 2 / [6]–[15] Act 3 72:39

A full track list can be found on pages 3–4 of the booklet

The Italian libretto may be accessed at www.naxos.com/libretti/660222.htm

Includes Free Downloadable Bonus Track (Bellini: *La Sonnambula: Scena ed Aria – Reggimi, o buona madre*) available at www.classicsonline.com. Please see booklet for full details.

Recorded live at the Teatro Donizetti, Bergamo, Italy, September 2006 • Booklet notes: Richard Lawrence
 Producer: Alberto Dellepiane • Engineer: Rino Trasi • Cover image from photos © Photo Studio U.V.

This recording is also available on Naxos DVD 2.110232



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Playing Time
127:18



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