



ALCESTE

Christoph Willibald Gluck

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Logos for this production: **Oxymore + Teatro La Fenice + Rising Alternative**

Opera in 3 acts

Sung in Italian

Libretto by Ranieri Simone Francesco Maria de' Calzabigi, after *Alceste* by Euripides

Teatro La Fenice, Venice

Recorded in 2015

Running Time: 02:35:29h

Running Time by Act: Part 1 : 00:00:00 – 01:11:58 | Intermission : 01:11:58 - 01:12:40 | Part 2 : 01:12:40 – 02:35:29

CREATIVE TEAM

Conductor	Guillaume Tourniaire
Director, Sets & Costumes	Pier Luigi Pizzi
Light Designer	Vincenzo Raponi
Choreography	Roberto Pizzuto
Chorus Master	Claudio Marino Moretti
Orchestra & Chorus	Orchestra & Chorus of Teatro La Fenice

ARTISTIC TEAM

Admeto	Marlin Miller
Alceste	Carmela Remigio
Eumelo	Ludovico Furlani
Aspasia	Anita Teodoro
Evandro	Giorgio Misseri
Ismene	Zuzana Marková
Un banditore / Oracolo	Armando Gabba
High Priest of Apollo / Apollo	Vincenzo Nizzardo

PRESENTATION

Pier Luigi Pizzi's new prestigious production of *Alceste* by Christoph Willibald Gluck to mark the three hundredth anniversary of the composer's birth (Erasbach, Bavaria 1714 – Vienna 1787). Musical direction will be by Guillaume Tourniaire; cast: Carmela Remigio as Alceste, Marlin Miller Admeto

An exponent of early Viennese classicism, Christoph Willibald Gluck played a decisive role in the reform and simplification of opera seria, which was suffering a period of decline in the eighteenth century. A key piece in this reform, together with the more famous *Orfeo ed Euridice* is *Alceste*, which portrays the

heartbreaking story narrated by Euripides: King Admetus is dying and his wife, Alceste offers Apollo her own life in exchange for that of her beloved. The god is moved by this act of extreme devotion and allows the woman to return from the underworld. There are two versions of this opera, one with an Italian libretto by Ranieri de' Calzabigi, which debuted at the Burgtheater in 1767, and one in French, which was performed in Paris in 1776.

SYNOPSIS

Admetus is about to die, to the distress of the people of Thessaly and of his wife Alcestis and their two children. Ceremonial prayer to Apollo elicits the answer that Admetus will die that day, unless someone will take his place. Alcestis offers herself, in the forest at night, in a place sacred to the gods of the Underworld. Admetus, ignorant, as are others, of what Alcestis has done, recovers, rejoined now by his wife, who eventually reveals the sacrifice she has made. As she dies, Admetus tries to kill himself, but is prevented, reminded of his royal duty. Alcestis appears above, with the god Apollo, who allows her to return to her husband.