

MARTÍN I SOLER 1754-1806
complete stage works



REAL COMPANYIA ÒPERA DE CAMBRA
REAL COMPAÑÍA ÓPERA DE CÁMARA
ROYAL CHAMBER OPERA COMPANY

Juan Bautista Otero

VICENTE MARTÍN I SOLER (VALENCIA, 1754-ST. PETERSBURG, 1806) COMPOSED OVER 30 OPERAS AND AROUND 20 BALLETS FOR THE LEADING THEATRES IN EUROPE, INCLUDING THE TEATRO DI SAN CARLO, NAPLES, THE BURGTHEATER, VIENNA, THE HERMITAGE, ST. PETERSBURG AND THE KING'S THEATRE, LONDON. HIS WORKS WERE PERFORMED BY SOME OF THE MOST RENOWNED SINGERS OF THE TIME (THE CASTRATO LUIGI MARCHESI, THE TENORS GIOVANNI ANSANI AND MICHAEL KELLY, THE SOPRANOS MARIA BALDUCCI, LUISA TODI AND NANCY STORAGE) AND THE PRESTIGIOUS CHOREOGRAPHERS WITH WHOM HE WORKED INCLUDED CHARLES LEPICQ AND DOMENICO ROSSI. HE SERVED THE MOST POWERFUL FIGURES OF EUROPE DURING THE AGE OF ENLIGHTENMENT: HE WAS THE ROYAL FAVOURITE OF THE EMPEROR JOSEPH II OF AUSTRIA, CATHERINE OF RUSSIA AND HER BROTHER PAUL I, AS WELL AS PHILIP, DUKE OF PARMA, AND FERDINAND I OF NAPLES. AND IF THAT WASN'T ENOUGH, HE COLLABORATED WITH SOME OF THE MOST BRILLIANT LIBRETTISTS FROM THE LAST QUARTER OF THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY, FROM LORENZO DA PONTE AND LUIGI SERIO TO THE REVOLUTIONARY MORETTI AND CIGNA-SANTI. HE USED THE MAJORITY OF THE CREATIVE RESOURCES FROM HIS BALLETS AND OPERE SERIE TO SERVE THE DRAMMA GIOSO. AS A RESULT WERE THE RESOUNDING SUCCESSES OF HIS VIENNESE OPERAS: IL BURBERO DI BUON CUORE, 20 PERFORMANCES, UNA COSA RARA, 55 AND L'ARBORE DI DIANA, 65. MARTÍN I SOLER ARRIVED IN VIENNA ENDORSED BY A SOLID REPUTATION AS A COMPOSER OF OPERA SERIA, EXTRAORDINARY BALLETS AND THAT INCIPIENT BASTION OF THE NEW MUSICAL AND CULTURAL IDEAS, THE DRAMMA GIOSO. HE HAD ALREADY COMPOSED MORE THAN A DOZEN OPERAS FOR THE THEATRES OF ITALY, THE BOURBON ROYALTY OF NAPLES AND THE DUCHIES OF PARMA AND SAVOY.

IN HIS FIRST TWO CLASSIC TRAGEDIES FOR THE SAN CARLO, IFIGENIA IN AULIDE (1779) AND IPERMESTRA (1780), MARTÍN I SOLER'S REFINED COMPOSITIVE LANGUAGE, AS WELL AS THE RARE BALANCE BETWEEN THE DRAMATURGICAL DEMANDS OF EACH CHARACTER AND THE VOCAL QUALITIES OF TALENTED SINGERS, WAS BEGINNING TO EMERGE. EMPEROR JOSEPH II, THE MOST DEMANDING OF THE THEATRICAL MANAGERS (AND A KEY FIGURE FOR UNDERSTANDING WORKS SUCH AS IL SOGNO), WAS UNDOUBTEDLY CAPTIVATED BY THE VIRTUOSO SINGERS, BUT, SIGNIFICANTLY, ALSO IN THE WORDS OF DA PONTE, CHOSE THE VALENCIAN AS HIS FAVOURITE COMPOSER.

AFTER MORE THAN 20 YEARS DEVOTED BY JUAN BAUTISTA OTERO TO THE RESEARCH ON HIS WORKS AND MUSICAL STYLE, THROUGH HIS PERFORMANCES, RECORDINGS AND STAGE PRODUCTIONS, ROC EDITORIAL IS PROUD TO PRESENT THE COMPLETE STAGE WORKS 'BIBLIOTECA MARTÍN I SOLER' EDITED BY OTERO, ONE OF THE MOST EMINENT MARTÍN I SOLER SPECIALISTS.