

*Betrayal, sorcery and one dazzling aria after the next... Ovid's Queen Niobe of Thebes, who turns to stone when her children are slain by the gods as punishment for her arrogance and pride, is the subject of this forgotten 1688 masterpiece. The Italian composer-priest Agostino Steffani languished in obscurity until the opera was rediscovered recently; the Boston Early Music Festival give its world-premiere studio recording with Karina Gauvin in the psychologically complex title role, and countertenor Philippe Jaroussky singing "powerfully and sweetly" (The New York Times) as Niobe's husband Anfiene, driven to suicide in the face of family tragedy.*

## NIOBE REGINA DI TEBE

Music by Agostino Steffani (1653-1728)

Additional Ballet Music by Melchior d'Ardespin (1643-1717)

Libretto by Luigi Orlandi, after Ovid's *Metamorphoses*

First performed at the Salvatortheater, Munich, on 5 January 1688

Karina Gauvin *Niobe*

Philippe Jaroussky *Anfiene*

Amanda Forsythe *Manto*

Christian Immeler *Tiresia*

Aaron Sheehan *Clearte*

Terry Wey *Creonte*

Jesse Blumberg *Poliferno*

Colin Balzer *Tiberino*

José Lemos *Nerea*

**BOSTON EARLY MUSIC FESTIVAL ORCHESTRA**


Paul O'Dette and Stephen Stubbs, *Musical Directors*

CD 1 79:03 ATTO I

CD 2 68:57 ATTO I cont. / ATTO II

CD 3 75:44 ATTO II cont. / ATTO III

CO-PRODUCTION: BOSTON EARLY MUSIC FESTIVAL/RADIO BREMEN

*Boston Early Music Festival*  **radio bremen**®

© 2015 Radio Bremen and Boston Early Music Festival LLC  
under exclusive license to Parlophone Records Limited, A Warner Music  
Group Company. © 2015 Erato/Warner Classics, Warner Music UK Ltd.  
A Warner Music Group Company

[www.erato.com](http://www.erato.com) - [www.bemf.org](http://www.bemf.org) - [www.radiobremen.de](http://www.radiobremen.de)

Made in the EU. LC 0200



**WARNER  
CLASSICS**