



MARIA TERESA AGNESI PINOTTINI and MOZART CELEBRATIONS

WIEN MOZART JAHR 2006

For the first time in over 200 years an opera by a Woman Composer returns to the City of Vienna

“Maria Teresa Agnesi Pinottini: *Ulisse in Campania*

Schlosstheater Schönbrunn

Premiere: 21. September 2006

Folgevorstellungen: 22. und 23. September 2006

For the Mozart Celebrations the **Foundation** has rediscovered, researched, revised and produced a long-forgotten opera by the Milanese composer, **Maria Teresa d'Agnesi-Pinottini**, who, in 1770, gave hospitality to the young Mozart and his father during their first Italian visit.

The performances, programmed for the Schönbrunn Theatre in Maria Teresa's Viennese palace of the same name, will be given with a large all-Italian company - young soloists, dancers, chorographer, stage direction, costumes and scenery - and with the choir and orchestra of the **Centro Italiano Musica Antica**, conducted by Riccardo Martinini

Maria Teresa Agnesi Pinottini, (b Milan, 17 Oct 1720; d Milan, 19 Jan 1795) was one of the most important composers of her period. She dedicated collections of her own arias and instrumental pieces to the rulers of Saxony and Austria and the Empress Maria Theresa sang from a collection of arias that Agnesi-Pinottini had given her. Her career as a theatrical composer (where she conducted her own works seated at the harpsichord) was made possible by the changes in women's status taking place in Austrian Lombardy and she seems to have found a warmer reception in Vienna and Dresden than in her native city, to judge by the elegant copies of *La Sofonisba*, *Il re pastore* and the arias produced for these courts. She used her own libretto for the opera *Ciro in Armenia* (1753), for a *componimento drammatico* (1766) and the serenata, **Ulisse in Campania**. She was well known for the organisation of musical evenings in her Milanese home.

Ulisse in Campania a celebratory opera for four soloists, strings, woodwind, continuo and a small choir, to a libretto by the composer, was performed in the Naples Opera House in 1765 to celebrate the marriage of the Princess Maria Caroline of Austria to the Bourbon King, Ferdinand 1.