

# **OMBRE AMENE**

## GIULIANI & SOR

Ariette, Seguidillas, Cavatine & Guitar works

# **MAURO GIULIANI** (1781 - 1829)

13 Las mujeres y cuerdas

14 Mis descuidados ojos

	Sei Ariette Op. 95 Words by Metastasio	
1	Ombre amene (Andantino espressivo)	(2'43)
2	Fra tutte le pene (Allegretto agitato)	(2'02)
3	Quando sarà quel di (Allegretto)	(2'04)
4	Le dimore amor non ama (Maestoso)	(3'16)
5	Ad altro laccio (Allegretto)	(2'08)
6	Di due bell'anime (Allegretto)	(2'15)
FERNA 7	NDO SOR (1778 - 1839)  Meditación	
8	Etude 17 Op.29	(3'12)
· ·	Six Seguidillas	(0 12)
9	Cesa de atormentarme	(1'12)
10	De amor en las prisiones	(1'15)
1	l Si dices que mis ojos	(1'57)
1 '	2 El que quisiera amando	(1'28)

(1'10)

(3'36)

## **MAURO GIULIANI** (1781 - 1829)

15	Grand Overture Op. 61	(8'45)
	Sei Cavatine Op. 39	
16	Par che di giubilo (Allº maestoso)	(1'42)
17	Confuso, smarrito (Allegro)	(1'10)
18	Alle mie tante lagrime (Moderato)	(2'59)
19	Ah! Non dir che non t'adoro (Allegretto)	(2'09)
20	Ch'io sent'amor per femine (Allo vivace)	(2'22)
21	Già presso al termine (Allegretto)	(2'47)

TOTAL TIME: 55'10

# GABRIELLA DI LACCIO - SOPRANO JAMES AKERS - GUITAR

# Sor and Giuliani and the first Golden Age of the Guitar

Throughout their history, plucked string instruments have been used to accompany the voice. From the kithara and lyre of the ancient world to the modern electric guitar the practical convenience and expressive potential of this combination has been exploited to great effect by performers and composers. The relatively recent invention of music notation allows us only a glimpse into this enduring history. The earliest surviving examples date from the 16th century, in which the already sophisticated and evolved nature of the music clearly demonstrates it was built upon a long tradition, and not newly sprung from a fecund imagination.

There are numerous examples which illustrate the success of this pairing. In the mid-16th century Luis de Milán (c.1560-c.1561) published songs for vihuela da mano and voice. The refined elegance of Pierre Guedron's (c.1570-c.1620) Air de Cour for voice and lute existed contemporaneously with the great melancholy outpouring of English lute songs by John Dowland (1563-1623); while in Italy Giulio Caccini (1551-1618) described the lute's descendant, the theorbo, as the finest instrument for accompanying the voice.

Throughout the 16th and 17th centuries, plucked instruments were integral to European music making, as they have continued to be in the Asian and African traditions to the present day. By the 18th century, however, advances in keyboard instrument building meant the harpsichord began to take over this pivotal role. The lute and theorbo gradually fell out of use while the guitar continued its evolution on the fringes of musical life. With the invention of the piano-forte, the first keyboard instrument to be able to imitate the changes in volume capable on a plucked instrument, the ascendancy of the keyboard was complete and a new tradition of song came to the fore.

The guitar, though sidelined, continued to be played and attracted a loyal and devoted clique of practitioners and aficionados devoted to keeping the flame alive. However, during the age of the first peak of piano accompanied song, with the inspired lieder of Franz Schubert, the guitar achieved a degree of popularity not seen since the 17th century. Driven by the appearance in Europe's capitals of virtuoso composer performers, who captivated and inspired their audiences, this "golden age" of the guitar also produced a new repertoire of song. These songs, however, were often also published with alternative accompaniments for the piano, to ensure maximum sales potential - an

aknowledgement of the dominance of the keyboard.

**Mauro Giuliani (1781-1829)** is a seminal figure in the history of the guitar. Born in southern Italy he settled and passed much of his professional life in Vienna. He interacted with many of the leading musical figures of his day, including Beethoven, Rossini and Paganini and his fame spread throughout Europe, to the extent that an English guitar magazine was named after him, *The Giulianiad*. Giuliani composed in a variety of genres from concertos with orchestra to solo chamber pieces but the guitar is always central to his music. A large proportion of Giuliani's output is in the form of vocal composition. He wrote not only original pieces but made a large number of transcriptions of well-known vocal pieces by, amongst others, Domenico Cimarosa (1749 - 1801), Felice Blangini (1781 - 1841), Gioachino Rossini (1792 - 1868).

Giuliani's own songs are among his finest works. Setting aside his abilities as a guitarist, Giuliani concentrates on the vocal line, creating dramatic word setting, supple and inventive melodies and swift changes of mood. Written in the Italian operatic style Giuliani imbibed in his youth, each of the Ariette takes the listener on an emotional journey perfectly expressed in crystalline miniature.

A characteristic of Giuliani's music that is often discussed is his melodic gift. His ability to imbue the potentially dry sound of the guitar with a *cantabile* warmth, while employing various techniques to explore the expressive depths of the instrument. This is remarkable considering the nature of the guitar in the early nineteenth century. The instrument of Giuliani's day was smaller than a modern classical guitar, the treble strings would have been made of gut, dried sheep intestines, which have a unique timbre and give less projection than modern strings. To achieve the range of expression attributed to Giuliani from such unlikely foundations is a testament to his genius.

The pieces performed on this recording highlight Giuliani's versatility, imagination and mastery of style. His **Sei Ariette, op. 95**, were inspired by the music of his contemporary, Rossini, a monumental figure in the history of Italian opera. They were published by Artaria & Co. in late 1818, shortly before Giuliani's final return to Italy. *Arietta* literately means 'little aria', a less complex form than a standard aria, characterised by its brevity, variety of ornamentation and generally upbeat mood. According to the first published edition, Sei Ariette was 'humbly composed and dedicated to Imperial Highness Princess Marie Louise, Archduchess of Austria', revealing the work's significance and

the affection and respect that Giuliani held for his benefactress. The set is comprised of the following songs: I. Ombre Amene (Andantino espressivo). II. Fra tutte le pene (Allegretto agitato); III. Quando sarà quell di (Allegretto); IV. Le dimore amor non ama (Maestoso); V. Ad altro Laccio (Allegretto), and VI. Di due bell'anime (Allegretto). The Ariettas demonstrate a wide range of character, from the very sweet Ombre amene, to the contemplative Quando sarà quell dì, the imposing Le dimore amor non ama to the energetic and sparkling Fra tuttle le pene, Ad altro laccio and Di due bell'anime.

Giuliani's **Grand Overture** is one of the core pieces of the guitar repertoire. Written in the style of an opera overture, it begins with a slow opening section full of gravitas, with occasional stabs of impending menace, before charging off on a dramatic gallop around the fretboard of the guitar, and enjoying a suitably extravagant ending. In this programme of song it has the function of its original inspirational, as an overture to the Cavatine that follow.

The **Sei Cavatine Op. 39** were published in 1813 in Vienna, also by Artaari & Co., and dedicated to 'Sig. Conte Francesco de Pálffy', one of Giuliani's most illustrious followers. This collection is printed with both guitar and piano accompaniments, which, interestingly, contain considerable discrepancies. The piano versions seem to be more considered and carefully composed than the slightly perfunctory efforts for guitar. Perhaps, on this occasion, the opportunity to compose away from the guitar exercised Giuliani's imagination more than the 'day job' of writing for the guitar. Due to this inconsistency in the accompaniments, on this recording, some judicious borrowing from the piano versions has been used to enliven the guitar parts.

In the Sei Cavatine, Giuliani creates clear and bright melodies over simple harmonic foundations demonstrating admirable invention with beautiful results. It consists of six settings of Italian love poems by unknown or anonymous authors. The titles are: I.Par che di giubilo (Allegro maestoso); II. Confuso, smarrito (Allegro); III. Alle mie tante lagrime (Moderato); IV. Ah! Non dir che non t'adoro (Allegretto); V. Ch'io senta amor per femine (Allegro vivace) and VI. Giā presso al termine (Allegretto). The second piece is perhaps an adaptation by Guliani of the cavatina Confusa, smarrita from the opera seria Catón en Útica (1728) by Leonardo Vinci (1690-1730). This popular text, by poet Pietro Metastasio, appears in over thirty settings by various composers.

From a singer's perspective, it is liberating to be able to enjoy the beautiful 'bel canto' lines and poetic texts without having to compete with the sound of a whole orchestra. Both Ariette and Cavatine provide considerable opportunity for expression and being accompanied by the delicate sound of the guitar allows the creation of operatic drama within a chamber music setting.

**Fernando Sor (1778-1839)** was a prolific composer of song. Though most famous as a composer for guitar, considered the finest of his day, he was less wedded to the instrument than Giuliani. He composed widely in other genres including opera, ballet and piano music. Most of Sor's songs are composed with piano accompaniment and he had considerable success as a songwriter while living in London. His Seguidillas are among the few songs he composed with accompaniment for guitar. Based musically on the bolero dance form they are short pieces with simple often bawdy and euphemistic texts outlining some of the less courteous interactions between the sexes. The seguidilla lyric is a poem of seven lines, the first four of which are the 'copla' or verse, the next three the 'estribillo' or chorus.

Sor's studies have been central to the aspirant guitarist's experience for nearly two centuries. **Study 17 op. 29** achieved fame in the mid-twentieth century when it was chosen by Andres Segovia as one of the collection of twenty Sor studies he edited and published. This collection was recorded by leading performers including Narcisco Yepes and John Williams. The piece deserves its popularity. It is a beautifully structured contrapuntal fantasia, beginning with a joyously lilting melody, which sets the scene for a good-natured but deceptively complex work, sounding effortless and light but rich with compositional learning and facility

The **Meditación** is a less well-known piece. Dedicated to Trinidad Huerta (1804-1875), another celebrated guitarist and composer of the 19th century, who history has chosen to neglect, it inhabits a nocturnal world of melancholic contemplation, not unlike the depths of feeling ploughed by Sor's equally celebrated predecessor in the world of plucked string composition, John Dowland. On this recording, in keeping with the performance practice of Sor's day, an original cadenza is added after a marked pause with the intention of heightening the emotional impact of the piece.

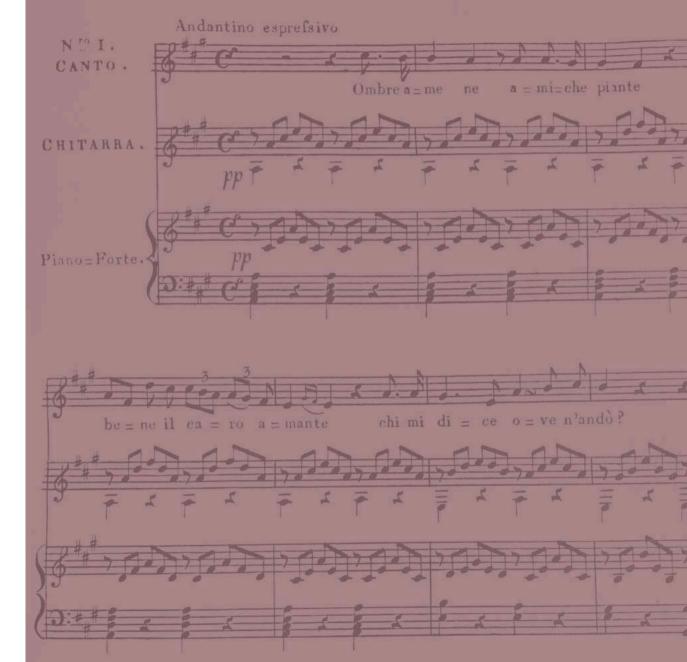
The **Six Seguidillas** presented in this recording illustrate perfectly the symbiosis of the popular and the refined. A parallel can be drawn between Sor' seguidillas and the paintings of Francisco de Goya's first period - those that portray the games and amusements of ordinary people while giving them an aristocratic bearing. In the Seguidillas, Sor employs melodies, which could have been heard with various lyrics in Spain at the beginning of the 19th century. Due to his refined composition technique Sor is able to present them with a sophisticated veneer while preserving the rhythmic energy of the most famous dance of the age. The temperament of each song chanes according to the text ranging from the passionate **Cesa de atormentarme**, the joyful **De amor en las prisiones**, romantic and dreamy **Si dices que mis ojos** and **Mis descuidados ojos**, the prudent **El que quisiera amando** to the very witty and ironic **Las mujeres y cuerdas**.

Sor, in his songs, challenges the singer with his demanding melodies, containing fast runs, trills and ornaments. These add to the character of the songs which, combined with the amusing lyrics, inspire the performer to search for an inner 'Spanish' soul. Compared with Giuliani's songs, which allow for *rubato* - freedom with the timing - in different sections, it is necessary to respect in Sor's work the characteristics of the dance form that are the foundation of the *seguidilla*. Thus, the singer must let the music move and not interrupt its flow with too many long breathes!

With the passing of Sor and Giuliani, the guitar returned to its position as a niche instrument for amateurs and eccentrics. Notable figures followed but none achieved the celebrity of their predecessors until popular culture adopted the guitar as its lynchpin and a new journey began.

We would like to dedicate this album to **Brian Jeffery** in recognition of his unparalleled contribution to the historical guitar repertoire. By discovering and making accessible, through **Tecla Editions**, sources of music long forgotten he has greatly enriched the experience of performers and audiences for generations to come.

Gabriella Di Laccio & James Akers





## **JAMES AKERS - GUITAR**

James Akers was born in Scotland and as a child began playing rock and blues guitar before attempting jazz and finally settling on classical music. Largely self-taught, before entering higher education, he studied guitar and began playing the lute with Rob MacKillop at Napier University before transferring to the Royal College of Music with Jakob Lindberg.

Following a Junior Fellowship at Trinity College of Music, James began a varied career as a soloist, accompanist, continuo player, session and theatre musician. He has performed with leading artists and ensembles including: Alison Balsom, Dame Emma Kirkby, I Fagiolini, Fretwork, the Dunedin Consort, The Scottish, English and Irish Chamber Orchestras. Major opera companies: English National Opera, Welsh National Opera, Opera North and Innsbruck Festival Opera and ventured into indie rock fusion with Damon Albarn.

He has performed on several film and television soundtracks and numerous theatrical stages, including Shakespeare's Globe Theatre.

James has released two solo recordings, the most recent being, The Soldier's Return, a collection of 19th century guitar music inspired by Scotland and given recitals throughout Europe of lute and early guitar music. Jamie is a lecturer at The Royal Conservatoire of Scotland.

www.jamieakers.com

### **GABRIELLA DI LACCIO - SOPRANO**

Winner of the "Air Europa Classical Act of the Year Award 2013", Gabriella Di Laccio enjoys an international career that spans the genres of opera, oratorio and chamber music.

Especially known for her virtuoso voice and much sought after in Baroque music she is also a devoted recitalist, researcher and a regular performer of Contemporary music and less well-known repertoire by South American composers.

Highly praised as a performer, Gabriella is recognised for bringing great intensity to her performances, introducing new and old repertoire with great expression and charisma. She has appeared on a number of major concerts platforms including Wigmore Hall, Purcell Room, St John's Smith Square, Banqueting House, Whitehall, Megaron Opera House (Athens) and Théâtre des Variétés (Monaco) amongst others. On the operatic and concert stage she has performed with conductors including Sir Charles Mackerras, Jean Claude Malgoire, Laurence Cummings, Rodolfo Richter as well as collaborating with Amaryllis Consort, Florilegium, Il Festino, Concerto Strumentale, Musica Antiqua Clio, Ensemble Di Profundis and Baroque Orchestra of Mercosur.

Gabriella was born in Brazil and shares both Italian and Brazilian nacionalities. She graduated in Brazil and continued her studies at the Royal College of Music, London, where she was also granted Peter Pears and Richard III Prize.

www.gabrielladilaccio.com





#### 01. Ombre amene,

amiche piante, Il mio bene, il caro amante Chi mi dice ove n'andò? Zefiretto lusinghiero, A lui vola messaggiero: Di che torni, e che mi renda Quella pace che non ho

## 02. Fra tutte le pene,

V'é pena maggiore?
Son presso al mio bene,
Sospiro d'amore
E dirgli non oso: Sospiro per te.
Mi manca il valore
Per tanto sofrire.
Mi manca l'ardire
Per chieder mercè.

## 03. Quando sarà quel di,

Ch'io non ti senta in sen Sempre tremar così, Povero core? Stelle, che crudeltà! Un sol piacer non v'è, Che, quando mio si fa Non sia dolore.

### 04. Le dimore amor non ama

Presso a lei mi chiama amore Ed io volo ove mi chiama Il mio caro condottier. Tempo è ben che l'alma ottenga La mercè d'un lungo esilio E che ormai supplisca il ciglio Agli uffici del pensier. Pleasant shades, friendly plants, my darling, my dear lover who can tell me where did he go? Flattering breeze, fly towards him as a messenger: Tell him to come back, and to restore the peace that I no longer have.

Among every sorrow,
Is there any greater punishment?
I am near my beloved,
I sigh of love
And I dare not say: I sigh for you.
I lack the courage
to suffer so much.
I lack the bravery
To ask for mercy.

When will that day come,
When I do not feel you in my breast
Always trembling like this,
Poor heart?
Stars, such cruelty!
There is not even one pleasure
that when it becomes mine
is not pain.

Love doesn't love waiting
My beloved invites me near her
and I fly where love,
my master, calls me.
It is time for my soul to obtain
The mercy of a long exile,
And now let my eyes be guided
By the duty of clear thought.

#### 5. Ad altro laccio

vedersi in braccio
In un momento la dolce amica,
Se sia tormento
per me lo dica
Chi lo provò.
Rendi a quel core la sua catena,
Tiranno amore,
che in tanta pena viver no so.

#### 6. Di due bell'anime,

che amor piagò, Gli affetti teneri turbar non vuò. Godete placidi nel sen d'amor. Oh se fedele fosse così Quella crudele che mi ferì, Meco men barbaro saresti, amor. In other arms
she is embraced
for a moment my sweet friend.
If this is a torment
please tell me
whoever felt this way.
Give to that heart its chains again
Tyrannous Love
for in so much pain! cannot live

The two beautiful souls
That love has wounded
The tender affections I don't want to
disturb,
Let them peacefully enjoy
Being in the bosom of love.
Oh if only she was faithful
The cruel one who has wounded me,
Less barbarous you would be love!



## 9. Cesa de atormentarme

cruel memoria, acordándome un tiempo que fui dichoso. Y aún lo sería si olvidarme pudiera de aquellas dichas.

## 10. De amor en las prisiones

Gozosa vivo — iay!
Y sus dulces cadenas
Beso y bendigo — iay!
Y el verme libre
Más que el morir me fuera
Duro y sensible — iay!

Cease tormenting me, cruel memory, reminding me of a time when I was happy. I should still be so, If I could only forget that lost happiness.

Imprisoned by love
I live in joy - Ah!
And its sweet chains
I kiss and bless. Ah!
And to see myself free,
Is more difficult and grievous
Than death that would be. Ah!

#### 11. Si dices que mis ojos

te dan la muerte Confiésate y comulga, que voy a verte. Porque yo creo me suceda lo mismo sino te veo.

## 12. El que quisiera amando

Vivir sin pena,
Ha de tomar el tiempo
Conforme venga.
Quiera querido;
Y si te aborrecieren
Haga lo mismo

## 13. Las mujeres y cuerdas

de la guitarra Es menester talento para templarlas. Flojas no suenan, Y suelen saltar muchas si las aprietan

## 14. Mis descuidados ojos

Vieron tu cara.

iOh qué cara me ha sido
Esa mirada!
Me cautivaste,
y encontrar no he podido
Quien me rescate.

De mi parte, a tus ojos diles que callen, Porque si les respond Quieren matarme. Y es fuerte cosa que ha de callas un hombre Si le provocan. If you say that my eyes

kill you

Then confess and receive the Sacrament;

For I am coming to see you.

Since I believe

The same will happen to me

If I do not see you.

The lover who wishes to live without grief Must take time As it comes. Love and be loved and should they despise you, Do the same.

Women, and strings of the guitar; One must have talent to tune them. If they are loose, they don't sound, and they will break If too tight.

My careless eyes
Saw your face.
Ah, how dear it has cost me
That glance!
You captivated me,
And I have found
no one to free me.

From me, tell your eyes
To be silent,
For if I respond to them
They seek to kill me.
And it is hard
For a man to be silent
When provoked.

## 16. Par che di giubilo

l'alma deliri
Par che mi manchino
quas'i sospiri;
Che fuor del petto mi balz' il cor.
Quant' è più facile che un gran diletto
Giung' ad accidere che un gran dolor.

## 17. Confuso, smarrito

Spiegarti vorrei
Che fosti, che sei
Intendimi oh Dio!
Parlar non poss' io;
Mi sento morir.
Lontano se mai
Di me ti rammenta
Io voglio tu sai
Sì, tu sai
Che pena gli accendi
Confonde il mărtir

## 18. Alle mie tante lagrime

Al mio crudel dolore Se non ti muove amore Hai di macigno il cor Pianger farebbe un sasso Uno si lungo a anno Se tu non sei tiranno Pianger dovresti ancor.

## 19. Ah! Non dir che non t'adoro

Se finor penai così, si, si! T'amerò mio bel tesoro Finché spiri all'aure il dì. Fin dal dì che ti mirai Sol tu fosti il mio pensier is delirious with joy; It seems that I am almost missing sighs; That out of my chest my heart would leap. How much easier it is for a great joy To kill me than a great sorrow.

Confused, puzzled
I would like to explain to you
What you were, what you are.
Listen to me, O God!
I cannot speak
I feel like dying.
If perhaps from long ago
You remember me
I want, you know
Yes, you know
What a pity! The anxiety
confuses the suffering.

It seems that my soul

Before my many tears
Before my cruel pain
If love doesn't move you,
your heart is made of stone.
You could make a stone weep
with a torment so long.
If you are not a tyrant
You should also weep

Ah! Do not say that I don't adore you, If hereafter I suffer like this, yes, yes! I will love you my beautiful treasure Until the day breathes all breezes. Ever since the day I saw you You were my sole only thought

Mi feristi ed io restai E ferito e prigionier. Cara imago del mio bene Vivi sempre nel mio amor Saran dolci le mie pene Se son figlie del mio amor.

## 20. Ch'io sent' amor per femine,

No! non sarà mai vero no! no! Il labro è lusinghiero E facile ad ingannar si! sì! Amo due luci belle Piacemi un bel sembiante Ma a lungo fido amante Non posso rimaner, no!

Donnette del avviso Approfittar sappiate Ne dopo vi lagnate Dovendovi lasciar, sì Dovendovi lasciar.

## 21. Già presso al termine

de' suoi martiri
Fugge quell' anima
sciolta in sospiri
Sul volto amabile
del caro ben,
Sì, sì, sul volto amabile
del caro ben.

Fra lor s' annodano sul labro i detti E il cor che palpita fra mille a etti Par che non tolleri di starmi in sen, No! no! di starmi in sen. You have wounded me and I remained Wounded and a prisoner.
The dear image of my loved one lives forever in my love
My sorrows will be sweet
If they are the children of my love.

That I should feel love for women,
No! No it will never be true, no, no!
The lips are flattering
And easy to deceive, yes! Yes!
I love two beautiful eyes
I like a lovely face
But for a long time faithful lover
I cannot stay, no!

Lovely ladies you should take advantage from this advice
And not complain afterwards
As I will have to leave you, yes
I will have to leave you.

It's nearing the end of your suffering Escape, liberated soul dissolved in sighs On the face of the dear beloved, Yes, yes, on the face of the dear beloved.

Among the words spoken by the lips
And the heart that beats
with a thousand emotions
As if it does not endure
to stay inside my chest,
No, no! To stay inside my chest.

# **OMBRE AMENE**

#### GIULIANI & SOR

Ariette, Seguidillas, Cavatine & Guitar works

Engineer and Producer: John Taylor Recording Location: St. Andrew's Church, Toddington, 25-26 Nov 2016

The instruments:

Giuliani works: Stauffer copy by Scott Tremblay, 2012. Sor works: Panormo replica by James Cole, 2015. a'= 432 Hz

#### Sources:

Mauro Giuliani Sei Ariette for voice and guitar or piano Op 95, Tecla Editions Mauro Giuliani Sei Cavatine for voice and guitar or piano Op 39, Tecla Editions Fernando Sor, Seguidillas, Tecla Editions www.tecla.com

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www.drama-musica.com info@drama-musica.com

