

ADELSON E SALVINI

Bellini

This was Bellini's first opera, first performed in the small Teatrino in his conservatory (12 January, 1825). This was his "graduation" opera, and was enthusiastically received by those present (Mainly students and teachers from the conservatorio) . Florimo, for some reason, remembers Donizetti coming to the stage and embracing Bellini, predicting him a great future. There are records of Donizetti writing positively of Bellini's second opera, but nowhere is it mentioned in his letters that he even saw the first.

Adelson e salvini was still written under the influence of Rossini, and Bellini's personal voice is, most of the time, only hinted in the music.

After Bellini's death Ricordi, the publisher, asked Florimo to send him the score of this first opera by the great composer. Florimo sent the full score. The opera was not performed in the 19th century after the 1825 performance. Its main importance lies in the fact that it is Bellini's first, and that Barbaja was among those applauding in its first performance. Barbaja not only understood that this composer could bring him good money; He also had a fine musical taste, and perceived Bellini's talent to capture a situation in music, and move his audience. Here was a talent worth revealing to the world. Soon afterwards a commission came from Barbaja for an opera in the San-Carlo.

(synopsis)

The story of the Opera is rather simple:

The painter Salvini loves Nelly, the fiancée of his Irish patron lord Adelson. He foils an attempt by her uncle Struley to abduct her, but hearing a shot believes that she has been killed. He is dissuaded from suicide when he discovers that she is still alive. Cured of his infatuation, he becomes engaged to his pupil Fanny while Adelson marries Nelly.