Whether it be buffa, giocosa, semi-seria or seria – without a quantum of love's troubles, baroque and classical opera would be in poor shape. Arias of desperation, heart-wrenching entreaties, scenes of jealousy and webs of intrigue are all part of the iron-clad stock of effective staged works – whatever class of society the protagonists belonged to. The noble emperor, who ultimately grants a pardon to the evildoers, was just as little immune to emotional humiliation as the bubbly and flirtatious Colombinchen, who in the end refreshingly thumbs her nose at her unfaithful lover, while the audience gleefully slap their thighs.

Soprano Stéphanie Varnerin, accompanied by the excellent instrumental ensemble *L’Astrée,* is the soloist in this new production dedicated to a colourful anthology of Turin's opera scene in the 18th century. Fourteen arias by nine once successful composers, whose works were performed or premiered at one of the two famous theatres in Turin (Regio and Carignano) are included in the program, where only one emotion is absent – boredom.