

Martines: Il primo amore – review

Nuria Rial (soprano), La Floridiana/Paraschivescu
(Deutsche Harmonia Mundi)

- **Stephen Pritchard**
- [The Observer](#), Sunday 25 March 2012
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[Marianna Martines](#), one of the most celebrated Viennese performers and composers of her day, died 200 years ago, an anniversary that offers an opportunity to reassess her output of cantatas, concertos, sonatas and concert arias. Four pieces here are recorded for the first time and reveal a talent firmly rooted in the style of her contemporaries Mozart and Haydn but imbued with a refreshingly feminine vivacity. The cantata "Il primo amore" and aria "Berenice, ah che fai?" are brought to life by the gloriously sweet-toned soprano [Nuria Rial](#), while the formidable Nicoleta Paraschivescu directs the lithe players of La Floridiana from the keyboard in the spritely Overture in C and Concerto for harpsichord in E major.