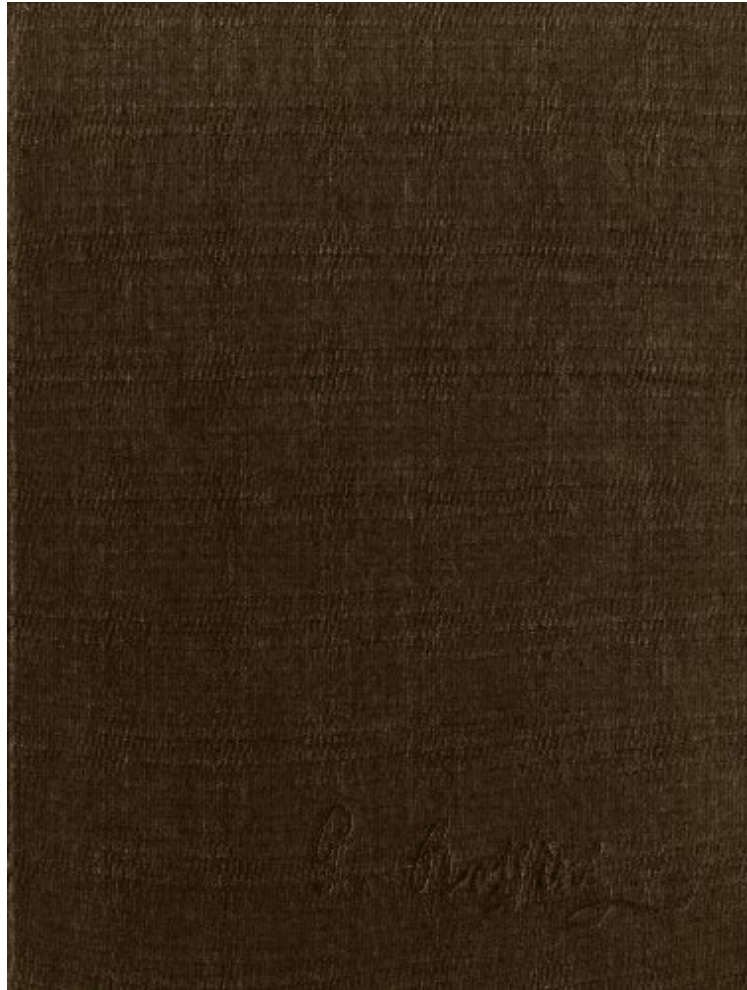


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Gioachino Rossini : Ermione: Dramma per musica in Two Acts by Andrea Leone Tottola (The Critical Edition of the Works of Gioachino Rossini, Section I: Operas) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Ermione: Dramma per musica in Two Acts by Andrea Leone Tottola (The Critical Edition of the Works of Gioachino Rossini, Section I: Operas):

Ermione is one of the extraordinary serious operas that Rossini composed while artistic director of the royal theaters of Naples. Although it was not originally successful, Rossini treasured Ermione as his "little William Tell." Its revival at the Rossini Opera Festival's production in 1987—the first since the original staging in 1819—revealed its beauty to modern audiences and has spurred many additional performances. This critical edition is the first publication of Ermione in full score. The originality and power of Rossini's score lie in the musical realization of the four principal characters in Tottola's libretto: four survivors of the Trojan war based on Racine's tragedy *Andromaque*. Rossini's Ermione was one of the most fully developed characters in nineteenth-century opera. The work's musical structure also was unconventional for its day. All the solo numbers involve other characters, and there is only one scene for a single protagonist.