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*Opera «d'una fisonomia tutta diversa da quella dell'altre»: la rivalse livornese di «Maria de Rudenz» nella «Lettera» di Michele Bolaffi, Donizetti Studies», 4, 2024, pp. 57-71.*

*Abstract*

Michele Bolaffi's *Lettera sull'opera "Maria de Rudenz"* gives an account of the opening night of Donizetti's opera in Livorno in July 1838. This was the first success of this opera, considered horrific by several commentators of the time, after its failure at both its Venetian premiere in January and when performed in Florence a few weeks later. Bolaffi, a Tuscan musician who enjoyed a good international career, was struggling at the time to find a satisfactory professional position. He published the pamphlet with the intention, perhaps, of gaining some credit with the composer and impresario Lanari. It is a peroration in favor of *Maria de Rudenz*, going so far as to examine the aesthetics of opera and modern vocality.