

PHILADELPHIA CHAMBER MUSIC SOCIETY

a life more beautiful

PREVIEW
NOTES

Lea Desandre, mezzo-soprano & Thomas Dunford, lute
Friday, November 3 – 7:30 PM
Benjamin Franklin Hall, American Philosophical Society

PROGRAM (selection of notes)

Lettera amorosa

"Sì dolce è'l tormento"

"Se i languidi miei sguardi (lettera amorosa)"

from *The Seventh Book of Madrigals*

"Quel sguardo sdegnosetto"

Claudio Monteverdi

Born: 1567, Cremona, Italy

Died: November 29, 1643, Venice, Italy

The extremely long text of "Se i languidi miei sguardi" from Monteverdi's *Seventh Book of Madrigals* is stated without any backtracking, usually chanted in one or two notes, with small emphatic departures such as leaps to a high note, or melodic cadences. The rhythm seems to be undetermined, following only the whims of the singer's speech and declamation. The point of this style is to make a highly effective declamation of the poem by underpinning it with music. The possibilities for great expressive power afforded by the poem are very great; when delivered in an inflammatory Italianissimo manner, the piece is wonderful.

"Se l'aura spira"

from *Primo libro d'arie musicali per cantarsi*

Girolamo Alessandro Frescobaldi

Born: September 13, 1583, Ferrara, Italy

Died: March 1, 1643, Rome, Italy

Girolamo Frescobaldi has been described as the most influential keyboard composer of the first half of the 17th century whose mature works are among the most moving and distinctive statements of the early Baroque spirit in Italy. Although remembered most for his keyboard works, he was also a prominent composer of madrigals. *Se l'aura spira tutta vezzosa (If the breezes blow ever charming)* is a mature work published in 1630.

"Calata ala Spagnola"

Joan Ambrosio Dalza

Born: 15th century, Milan, Italy

Died: Fl. 1508

Dalza was a Milanese lutenist and composer whose surviving works comprise the fourth volume of Ottaviano Petrucci's influential series of lute music publications, *Intabolutura de lauto libro quarto*. Dalza's work constitutes an important part of early Renaissance lute music and includes the earliest known pavanese.

Toccata No. 1, 3, 5, 6

"Figlio dormi"

Giovanni Girolamo Kapsberger

Born: 1580, Venice, Italy

Died: January 17, 1651, Rome, Italy

Known for his compositions for the lute and chitarrone, Kapsberger was a talented composer who worked for great patrons such as Francesco Barberini and Pope Urban VIII. Kapsberger published his only surviving lute works in 1611, including eight lute toccatas, twelve galliards and twelve courantes.

"Lascia la spina" from *Il trionfo del Tempo e della Verità*

George Frideric Handel

Born: February 23, 1685, Halle, Germany

Died: April 14, 1759, London, UK

Handel's *The Triumph of Time and Truth* has all the hallmarks of the finest music of the composer's Italian years—tremendous verve, originality of invention, and freshness. One of its famous arias is *Lascia la spina, cogli la rosa (Leave the Thorn, Take the Rose)*, later recast as *Lascia ch'io pianga (Leave Me to Weep)* in the opera *Rinaldo*.