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Capriole

Ensemble in Residence at the College of William and Mary

The Origins of Bel Canto

Friday February 1, University of Richmond North Court Recital Hall, 8:15 p.m. Saturday February 2, Williamsburg Regional Library Arts Center Theatre, 8:15 p.m. Sunday February 3, Chrysler Museum Theatre, Norfolk, 3:00 p.m.

CAPRIOLE The Origins of Bel Canto

Intermission

I. Musiche a una, due e tre voci, 1615
 Mie speranze lusinghiere
 Io vidi in terra
 Valli profonde

Marco da Gagliano (1582-1643)

II. What if I never speede, 1603
Can she excuse my wrongs with vertues cloake, 1597
Sorrow stay, lend true repentant teares, 1600
His goulden locks time hath to silver turned, 1597
Sir John Langton His Pavan for lute
Fantasie from Varietie of Lute Lessons, 1610
It was a time when silly bees could speake, 1603

John Dowland (1562-1626)

III. Arie Musicali, 1630

Non vi partite

Aria de Romanesca: Dunque dovro

Aria di Passacaglia: Cosi mi disprezzate

Eri gia tutta mia

In darkness let me dwell

Girolamo Frescobaldi (1583-1643)

IV. Jubilate Domino

Dietrich Buxtehude (c. 1637-1707)

V. Dialogue: Ich leide billig

Andreas Hammerschmidt (1612-1675)

VI. Partita XI
Preluda (1645-1700)
Allemanda
Corrente
Sarabanda
Giga

Auguste Kuhnel (1645-1700)

VII. Dalla guerra amorosa

George Frideric Handel

(1685-1759)

VIII.Lungi da me, pensier tiranno

G.F. Handel

IX. Voi che cercate amore, Duetti e terzetti, 1705

Antonio Lotti (1667-1740)

Capriole
Derek Lee Ragin, countertenor
James Weaver, bass-baritone
Wayne Moss, viola da gamba
Howard Bass, lute and archlute
Gayle Johnson, harpsichord, director

Program Notes

Secular songs for the solo voice first began to be an important art form in the last twenty yea the sixteenth century. As professional singers began to find an appreciative secular audience in the co of Northern Italy, they were eager to show off their technical virtuosity and the music written to approximately 1580-1600 was extremely florid and highly ornamented. In his Nuove Musiche publishe 1600 Giulio Caccini heralded a new, less ornamented style that subjected vocal virtuosity to the ov dramatic and emotive content of the poem. Ornamentation became more expressive than technical, trills expressing exultation and joy while dissonances emphasize the sweetness of the resolutio consonance on words such as love or kindness. Caccini was the first to describe subtle dynamic ornan that crescendo and decrescendo on a long note to emphasize important words. Light dance-like songs as Mie speranze lusinghiere, however, are less concerned with expressing the emotions of the text and use fast stepwise ornaments that tickle the ear and are simply virtuosity for its own sake. Marco da Gaglia Musiche a una, due e tre voci, published in 1615 is an excellent example of this monodic style of which as maestro di capella to the Medici for thirty five years, was a leading proponent. In both Io vidi in terra Valli profonde the character of each poem is clearly evoked, serenity in the first and despair in the sec The singer can show off his prowess in the ornamentation at specific words which add to the poetic ima such as the fast motion on aer (air) depicting winds; the jagged melodic line and rhythms at precipitanti (hurled rocks); and the twisting, writhing sixteenth-note line on serpenti (snakes).

The Arie Musicali of Girolamo Frescobaldi were published in 1630 during a six year sojour Florence; the rest of his life was spent in Rome. The duets are strophic canzonettes which repeat the smelody and bass for all three verses based on dance-like rhythms, like Gagliano's Mie speranze lusinghieri. Aria di Romanesca and the Aria di Passacaglia are both based on stock bass patterns. The Aria di Romanis a strophic song whose melody is carefully crafted to express the emotional contents of the text of verse and is thus a tribute to the Florentine style led by Caccini & Gagliano. The Aria di Passacaglia, or other hand, reflects the early cantatas being written by Frescobaldi's Roman contemporaries at that the both in the sectional alternation of aria and recitative and in the flowing lyricism of the melody.

It was soon after this, in 1640, that the term *Bel Canto* was first used in an Italian treatise on the of singing and it was probably referring to this new lyrical Roman style which, while emphasizing the beautiful offered plenty of opportunity for the singer to show off his technical skill through effortless delivery of florid ornamentation. It is this combination of a naturally beautiful voice, technical and mastery of emotive communication that were to continue as the style of Italian singing that be known as *Bel Canto*.

Elizabethan England was particularly taken with Italian ideals and, in response to them, devel the genre of the English lute song, beginning in 1597 with the publication of John Dowland's First I Songs or Ayres. The English show an equal senstivity to expressing high quality poetic texts yet lyricism prover the more self-conscious manipulations of the Italians via word painting or ornamentation. The often a play on words, such as in "It was a time when silly bees could speake" where time and thyme are both implied. The lute pieces were published by Dowland's son, Robert Dowland, in 1610.

The Germans were particularly fond of the Italian style and many went to Italy to study, bri home music and ideas. Andreas Hammerschmidt's Dialogue between Jesus and the repentant thief crucified with Him hearkens back to the sacred duets of Heinrich Schutz who studied with Montev Venice. Dietrich Buxtehude's Jubilate Domino unites technical virtuosity which expresses the joy of the with Italianate word painting such as melismas at cantate and psallite (let's sing) or the arpeggiated to evoke trumpet battle cries at in buccinis et vocae tubae (with the sound of cornettes & trumpets).

George Frideric Handel studied in Italy from 1705-1710, during which time he wrote many cantatas such as Lungi da me and Dalla guerra amorosa. He undoubtedly heard the music of Antonia maestro di capella in Venice at the time. Lotti's Duetti e Terzetti were published in 1705 and may well have the model for Handel's Italian chamber duets. The works of both composers show the maturation cantata and the establishment of fixed forms based on the experiments from the seventeenth-centural clearly separate and alternate recitative and aria and use the Da Capo form where the first half of is repeated, creating a tri-partite form. Both require a virtuoso command of brilliant figurations affective communication to express the text, thus synthesizing the seemingly opposing focuses of sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries of virtuoso ornamentation vs. emotive rendering of the

I. Mie speranze lusinghiere
Mie speranze lusinghiere
Desiato in van piacere
Falsi sguardi, Ben che tardi
Da voi sciolto pur mi volto
Al sentier di libertade
E d'Amore sgombro 'l core
Che langui senza pietade.

Bacco amico a desir miei, Fugator de'pensier rei Sol m'arrida Meco arrida Festeggiante, Fiammegiante Tra le tazze rubinose E m'inviti Co'suo inviti Cinto il crin d'Edera e rose.

Chi d'amor mal fortunato Porta 'l core arso, e piagato I suoi duoli, Riconsoli Co'i possenti Lenimenti Di che Bacco sana l'alme Bacco pio, Bacco Dio Donator di lauri, e palme.

Io vidi in terra

Io vidi in terra angelici costumi
E celesti belleze al modo sole
Tal che di rimembrar mi giova e dole
Che quanto io miro par sogni, ombre, e fumi;
E vidi lagrimar que'duo bei lumi
C'han fatto mille volte invidia al Sole
Et udi sospirando dir parole
Che farian gir i monti e star i fiumi.
Amor, Senno, Valor, Pietate e Doglia
Facean piangendo un piu dolce concento
D'ogni altro che nel mondo udir si soglia
Ed era il Ciel a l'armonia si intento
Che non se vede' in ramo mover foglia
Tanta dolcezza havea pien l'aere e'l vento.

Valli profonde

Valli profonde al Sol nemiche Rupi
Che'l ciel superbe minacciate grotte
Onde non parte mai silentio e notte
Aer che d'atra nube il Ciel occupi
Precipitanti sassi alte de rupi
Ossa insepolte herbose mura e rotte
D'huomini albergo gia hor pur condotte
Che temon gir tra voi serpente e lupi
Erme campagne inhabitati lidi

Mie speranze lusinghiere

My hopes that were so promising,
Vainly wished for pleasures,
Deceitful glances, although so late
I am finally freed from you;
So now I turn toward the path of liberty
And love-free is my heart
That was languishing without pity.

Bacchus, friend of my desires
Ouster of bad thoughts
He alone will favor me with a true welcome
Celebrating and beaming
Among the ruby wine-cups;
And may he entice me with his lure
his head crowned with ivy and roses.

Whoever is unfortunate in love His heart is seared and wounded. May his sorrows be consoled By the powerful sensations With which Bacchus cures all souls. Pius Bacchus, Godlike Bacchus Giver of Laurels and of palms.

Io vidi in terra

I have seen on earth angelic habits and celestial beauties unique in this world Which gladden and pain my memory so much That all else I look at seems like dreams, shadows and vapor,
And I have seen tears from those two beautiful eyes

That have made the sun envious a thousand times.
And I have heard sighing words that were so moving
That they would displace mountains and hold back floods.
Love, Wisdon, Courage, Pity and Pain
Joined, weeping in a sweeter concert
Than any that has been heard in the world,
And heaven was so intent upon this harmony
That not a leaf could be seen moving in the branches
So full of sweetness was the air and the breeze.

Valli profonde

Deep valleys, enemies of the Sun,
Proud cliffs menacing the sky,
Grottos which silence & darkness never leave,
Winds that cover the sky with black clouds,
Rocks hurled down from high cliffs,
Unburied bones, walls overgrown with weeds
Once the abode of men, but now reduced todens
Where even wolves and serpents fear to go;
Lonely fields, uninhabited shores

Ove voce d'huom mai l'aer non fiede Ombra son io dannata al pianto eterno Che tra voi vengo a deplorar mia fede E spero al suon de lacrimosi stridi Se non si piega al Ciel mover l'inferno.

III. Non vi partite

Non vi partite, Se voi m'amate, Non me lasciate, luci gradite, no, Non vi partite, non mi lasciate Ch'io mi morro.

Fermate il piede, Dolce mia vita Porgete aita a tanta fede, si, Fermate il piede, Porgete aita Ch'io mi morro.

Fermate il volo, Belta celeste, Mie voci meste, Udite, e'l duolo, su Fermate il volo, Mie voci meste non state piu.

<u>Aria di Romanesca</u>

Dunque dovro del puro servir mio Crudel, or riportar tormenti e pene.

O tradite speranze, o van desio, Che sepolta nel duol l'alma mi tiene.

Te, amor, te solo ora incolpar degg'io, Che m'involi, tiranno, ogni mio bene.

Te, incolpar degg'io, che prendi a gioco Che m'arda il cor di crudeltade il foco.

Aria di passacaglia

Cosi mi disprezzate?
Cosi voi mi burlate?
Tempo verra, ch'Amore
Fara di vostro core
Quel che fate del mio,
Non piu parole, addio.

Datemi pur martiri; Burlate i miei sospiri Negatemi mercede. Otraggiate mia fede Ch'in voi vedrete poi Quel che mi fate voi.

Belta sempre non regna, E s'ella pur v'insegna A dispregiar mia fe Credete pur a me Che s'oggi m'ancidete Doman vi pentirete. Where the air is never broken by man's vo A shadow am I, condemned to eternal tea That comes among you to lament my devo And hopes with the sound of tearful cries To move Hell, since Heaven will not take

Non vi partite

Don't go, if you love me Don't leave me, pleasing eyes, Don't go, don't leave me, or I will die.

Stay your steps, don't go, my sweet life Give your aid in return for so much loyalty Help me, stay your steps, or I will die.

Stop fleeing, heavenly beauty, Listen to my sad words and my sorrow, Stop fleeing, my sad words live no more.

Aria di Romanesca

Thus, cruel one, I will have to receive pain and torment from my sincere service

O betrayed hope, o vain desire, that keeps my soul buried in sorrow.

You, love, you alone I now blame, you tyrant, that stole my beloved from me

You, I blame, who makes fun of me, that the fire of cruelty burns my heart.

Cosi mi disprezzate?

Do you thus despise me?
Do you thus mock me?
Time will tell that
Love will do to your heart
What you have done to mine.
No more words; good bye.

You give me only torments; you mock my sighs; you deny me mercy; you insult my loyalty. If only you could see What you have done to me.

Beauty will not always reign And it is she alone who teaches you To despise my love. Believe me that if today you kill me Tomorrow you will regret it. Non nego gia ch'in voi Amor ha i pregi suoi Ma so che'l tempo cassa Belta che fugge e passa Se non volete amare, Io non voglio penare.

Il vostro biondo crine, Le guance purpurine, Veloce piu che maggio Tosto faran passaggio. Prezzategli pur voi, Ch'io ridero ben poi.

Eri gia tutta mia
Eri gia tutta mia,
Mia quel l'alma e quel core,
Or da me ti disvia Nuovo affetto d'amore.
O bellezza, o valore,
O mirabil bellezze, ove sei tu?
Eri gia tutta mia, or non sei piu.
Ah, che mia non se piu!

Sol per me gli occhi belli, Rivolgevi ridenti. Per me d'oro i capelli, Si scioglievano a' venti. O fugaci contenti, O dolcezza, o belta, dove sei tu? Eri gia tutta mia ...

Ah, che piu tu non miri, Il gioir del mio viso Il mio canto, il mio riso e converso in martiri. O dispersi sospiri, O sparita pieta dove sei tu? Eri gia...

Paraphrase of Psalm 150
Jubilate Domino omnis terra
Cantate et exsultate et psallite
Psallite Domino cithara et voce psalmi
in buccinis et voce tubae
Jubilate in conspectu regis Domini.

Paraphrase of Luke 23:41-43

XVIII Dialogue a 2.

"Ich leide billig nach meinem verdienten Lohn;
Du aber, O Herr Jesu,
hast nichts ungeschickts gehandelt
O Herr, gedenke mein, gedenke mein,
wenn du in dein Reich kommest."

"Wahrlich, wahrlich, ich sage dir
heute wirst du mit mir im Paradies sein."

I don't deny that
Love has its prize in you.
But even so, Time destroys
Beauty which flees and passes.
If you do not wish to love,
I do not wish to suffer.

Your blond hair, your rosy cheeks Will pass quicker than May. Rest assured that I will laugh well then.

Eri gia tutta mia
You used to be all mine
Mine, this heart and soul
Now a new love tears you from me.
O beauty, o merit,
O wonder of beauties, where are you?
You used to be all mine; now you are no longer. Ah, you are no longer mine!

Only for me the beautiful eyes used to turn to me smiling.

For me the golden hair was released to the wind.

O fleeting pleasures,
O sweetness, o beauty, where are you?

You used to be all mine...

Ah, that you no longer see joy in my face.
My song, my smile is turned into agony.
O despairing sighs,
O vanished pity, where are you?
You used to be all mine...

Jubilate Domino

Praise the Lord, all ye lands
Sing and rejoice and play,
Play to the Lord on the lute and with sounds
of cornettes and trumpets
Let us be joyful in the sight of the kingdom
of the Lord.

Andreas Hammerschmidt

Ich leide billig

"I am receiving the due reward of my deeds;
But you, Lord Jesus
have done nothing wrong.
Remember me, Lord, when you
come into your kingdom."

"Truly I say unto you,
this day shalt thou be with me in Paradise."

Cantata: Dalla guerra amorosa

Recitative

Dalla guerra amorosa or che ragion mi chiama o miei pensieri, fuggite, pur fuggite. Vergognosa non e in amor la fuga che sol fuggendo un'alma del crudo amor puo riportar la palma.

Aria

Non v'alletti un occhio nero Con suoi sguardi lusinghiero Che da voi chieda pieta. Che per far le sue vendette e con arco e con saette ivi amor nascoso sta. Non v'alletti...

Recitative

Fuggite, si fuggite! Ahi! di quanto veleno, amore asperge i suoi piaceri. Ah! quanto ministra duol, e pianto, a chi le seque, e le sue leggi adora! Se un volto v'innamora, sappiate o pensieri miei, Che cio che piace in brev'ora svanisce e poi dispiace. Aria

La bellezza e com' un fiore sul mattin di primavera vivace e bella, Che la sera langue e more si scolora e non par quella. Recitative & aria Fuggite, si fuggite!

A chi servo d'amor vive in catena E dubbioso il gioir, certa la pena.

Cantata: Lungi da me

Recitative

Lungi da me, pensier tiranno! Tu mi vorresti rendere infelice col farmi credere Tirsi un traditore. Ah! sento ch'il mio core mi dice, che non puo l'alma si bella esser a me rubella. Dunque da questo sen fugga l'affanno! Lungi da me, pensier tiranno!

Aria

Pensier crudele, se vuoi ch'io creda ch'il mio bel Tirsi sia ingannator! Fia ch'il mio amore meco l'unisca, poi lo bandisca da questo cor.

Pensier crudele...

Recitative

Ma se amor cio contrasta e'l cor ripugna la sua virtu mel vieta e la sincerita del suo bel genio non vogliono ch'io creda che sia Tirsi ingrato. Lungi, dunque da me, pensier spietato!

Dalla guerra amorosa

Recitative

Now that Reason calls me, flee from the ame war, o my thoughts!

Fleeing from love is not shameful,

for only in fleeing can a soul receive the pall of victory from cruel Love.

Aria

So be not enticed by beautiful black eyes with their deceiving looks which ask you for mercy. In order to take their revenge they make love grow by means of the bow and arrows of Cupid. So be not enticed...

Recitative

Flee, yes, flee! Ah! Love sprinkles its pleasur with so much poison.

Ah! how much he administers sorrow and te to those that follow him and adore his laws! If you once fall in love, know, o my thoughts that peace vanishes in that brief hour and then you will regret it.

Aria

Beauty is like a flower, lively and beautiful in the spring morning, but in the evening it languishes and dies discolored. Recitative & aria Flee, yes flee!

Those who serve love lie in chains The joy is doubtful but certain the pain.

Lungi da me, pensier tiranno!

Recitative

Away, tyrannous thought! You want to make me unhappy by making me believe that Tirsi is a traitor. Ah! I hear my heart say to me that such a beautiful soul could not betray n Thus, flee from this breast, anxiety! Away, tyrannous thought!

Aria

Cruel thought that wants me to believe that my fine Tirsi is a deceiver! If my love were to unite him with me, then I would banish this thought from my h Cruel thought...

Recitative

But if love resists it and the heart is reluctan his merit prevents me and the sincerity of his genius do not let me believe that Tirsi is a deceiver-Far away from me, pitiless thought!

Aria

Fuggi da questo sen, o barbaro pensier!
Lasciami in pace!
Sebben m'aduli amor,
per te consente il cor perche ti piace.
Fuggi da questo sen...
Recitative
Non sa il mio cor sincero

Non sa il mio cor sincero creder d'error capace un'alma grande. Dunque torna, o pensiero, coi segni a funestar la mente oppressa e lascia a me la libertade intiera di cedere Tirsi mio d'alma sincera.

Aria
Tirsi amato, adorato mio Nume!
Vieni, o caro, ritornami in sen
Farfalletta son io, che le piume ardo al lume

del caro mio ben.

Duetto: Voi che cercate amore
Voi che cercate Amore, poveri amanti,
io vi diro dov'e.
Nelle guance d'Eurilla, il traditore,
qual serpe infra le rose
gia si nascose, ed essa il ricovero.
Credete, amanti, a me
che per tormento mio, purtroppo, il so
purtroppo, il vedo, e tardi
lo conosco all face, all'arco, ai dardi.

Aria

Flee from this breast, barbarous thought!
Leave me in peace!
Though you cajole me, love,
my heart yields to you because it pleases you.
Flee from this breast...
Recitative

My sincere heart does not know how to believe a great man capable of error.

Thus go back, terrible thought, with your tokens to distress the oppressed mind and leave me the freedom to believe my Tirsi sincere. Aria

Beloved Tirsi, my adored god! Come, beloved, return to my arms. I am like a butterfly whose wings burn in in the light of my beloved.

Voi che cercate amore

You who seek Love, poor lovers
I will tell you where he is.
In the cheeks of Eurilla, the traitor,
like a snake amongst the roses
he hid himself already & she gave him shelter.
Believe me, lovers,
that through my torment, alas, I know it,
alas I see it, and too late
I recognize him by his torch, his arrows and his darts.

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Friday, April 26, University of Richmond North Court Recital Hall, 8:15 p.m. Saturday, April 27, Chrysler Museum Theatre, Norfolk, 8:15 p.m. Sunday, April 28, Williamsburg Regional Library Arts Center Theatre, 3:00 p.m.

The Artists

Countertenor Derek Lee Ragin is in great demand throughout Europe and the United States, particular for baroque opera. A native of Newark, Mr. Ragin is constantly on the move and since his last perform; with Capriole last February has performed in Washington D.C., New York, Cologne, Munich, Salzb and London. Some of his most exciting recent performances include Gluck's Orfeo at the London Phwith John Elliot Gardiner, in New York City and in his Salzburg debut. He will be recording it in Mathe Phillips label. He particularly enjoys the music of Handel and since his Metropolitan Opera debit Handel's Giulio Cesare he has sung Handel's Amadigi at the Early Music Festival in Utrecht, Holly Terpsichore, directed by Nicholas McGegan, recorded in Hungary last June; the role of Guido in Flav Monte Carlo and Caen, France, directed by Rene Jacobs and recorded on the Harmonia Mundi Fralabel; a recording of Handel cantatas on the CCS label; and Tamerlano on the Erato label. Other recordings include a set of Vivaldi cantatas on the Etcetera label and Pergolesi's Stabat Mater. Mr. Rareceived his B.M. at the Oberlin Conservatory where he and Ms. Johnson first performed together in Collegium Musicum. He then studied with Max van Egmond at the Sweelinck Conservatory in Holla

Bass-baritone James Weaver is best known as an oratorio soloist and has appeared throughout United States including Chicago, Houston, San Francisco, Washington D.C., Baltimore, the Bach Fest in Philadelphia, and the Berkeley Early Music Festival in California. His most recent appearances inch Handel's Joshua with Basically Baroque in Chicago; a series of Bach cantatas with the American Basically Baroque in Chicago; a series of Bach cantatas with the American Basic in Marin County, Califronia; Monteverdi's 1610 Vespers directed by Philip Brett at the Berke Early Music Festival; Bach's St. John Passion with the San Francisco Bach Choir; Bach's Christmas Oral and St. John Passion with the Smithsonian Chamber Orchestra and Chorus, the latter recorded on Smithsonian label; and "Bawdy Ballads", a program of seventeenth-century English music with Baltimore Consort which is soon to be released on the Dorian label. He was recently heard in two natio broadcasts on National Public Radio: one of J.S. Bach's Christmas Oratorio with the Smithsonian Cham Orchestra and Chorus on Chritsmas eve and one of Bach cantata 80 performed by the American Basic Soloists on Performance Today in January. A native of Detroit, Michigan, he studied at the University Michigan and then received a performance degree from the Sweelinck Conservatory in Amsterd where he studied with Max van Egmond.

Howard Bass has performed throughout the United States in solo, lute song and ensem programs. He is a member of La Rondinella and the Baltimore Consort and has performed with the Sa Fe Opera, the Smithsonian Chamber Players, the Theater Chamber Players of the Kennedy Center, Folger Consort, and many other Washington-area ensembles. He has recorded with La Rondinella, Smithsonian Chamber Players, the Folger Consort, the Baltimore Consort, the Choral Arts Society Washington and the New England Consort of Viols. As a soloist he gives recitals across the country the Smithsonian National Associates Program. Mr. Bass is a program coordinator in the Department Public Programs at the Smithsonian National Museum of American History.

Wayne Moss, a native of Virginia, is a graduate of the Oberlin Conservatory of Music where studied with Catherina Meints & Auguste Wenzinger. He has appeared extensively in the southern a southwestern United States and in Europe both as soloist and as member of various ensembles. He vassociate faculty for viola da gamba and performance practice at North Texas State University, Southe Methodist University, University of Texas at Austin, and Rice University as well as coaching at a American Institute of Musical Studies in Graz, Austria. He has performed and recorded with Colon Williamsburg Foundation.

Gayle Johnson, Artistic Director of Capriole, is a scholar-performer who specializes in several teenth-century Italian music. She has conducted cross-disciplinary studies of Renaissance and Barod dance, Italian poetry, and the relationship between music and the graphic arts. A native of Richmond, I Johnson studied harpsichord with Margaret Irwin-Brandon and John Gibbons and holds degrees from the Oberlin College and Conservatory.

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