



Saturday 5 June, 6pm & 8pm

Royal Spa, Queen's Park

THE FOREST OF MYTHICAL BREEZES

Flauguissimo Ensemble

Emily Atkinson *soprano*

Yu-Wei Hu *flute*

Magdalena Loth-Hill *violin*

Henrik Persson *viola da gamba*

Johan Löfving *theorbo, guitar*

with

Steven Player *dance*

The music

Marc-Antoine Charpentier 1643–1704

From *Acteon*

Overture

Bruit de chasse (scene 1)

Gavotte en rondeau (scene 2)

Jean-Philippe Rameau 1683–1764

From *Zaïs*

Tambourin (act 3)

François Couperin 1668–1733

From *Troisième livre de pièces de clavecin*

Le Rossignol en Amour

Le Rossignol Vainqueur

Rameau

From *Les Indes Galantes*

Triomphez, agréables Fleurs! (Act 3)

François Couperin

Double du Rossignol en Amour

Michel Pignolet de Montéclair 1667–1737

Cantata *Pan et Syrinx*

Jean-Baptiste Lully 1632–1687

Entrée d'Apollon (arranged by de Visée)

From *Les Jeux Pithiens*

Menuet de Trompette

Rameau

From *Les Indes Galantes*

Les Sauvages, Forêts paisibles

From the depths of the Arcadian forest, wondrous sounds tell the tragic tale of Acteon, victim of powerful Diana.

Enticed by the ephemeral music, beastly Pan emerges from the woods. Always searching and longing, his eyes soon fall on the beautiful nymph Syrinx.

In vain he dreams and hopes for love, only to be left with a fragile reed as a token of her unconfined beauty, transformed in fear.

Glorious Apollo attempts to restore order while Bacchus brings madness and chaos. In their midst, a faraway princess celebrates her own triumph of love. The mythical forest feeds passion and peace in equal measure, finally bringing all Earth's creatures together.

Who truly rules the heart of mankind?
Only the music knows the answer...

The performers

Flauguissimo was founded by flautist Yu-Wei Hu and guitarist Johan Löfving whilst studying at the Royal College of Music in London. As both duo and ensemble they have dazzled audiences across UK and beyond, performing in venues such as Kings Place, Cadogan Hall and St John's Smith Square in London, Sage Gateshead and St George's Bristol as well as on BBC Radio 3. Apart from rediscovering hidden gems of the past, they frequently collaborate with composers and explore new sound worlds on historical instruments. Flauguissimo is passionate about revitalising historical repertoires for new audiences, often by combining different art forms in creative and dramatic settings. Their debut album 'A Salon Opera' was released on Resonus Classics in 2019 and was warmly received by audience and critics alike.

flauguissimoduo.com

Born in the Colorado Rockies, soprano **Emily Atkinson** studied music education in New York and singing in London, and now enjoys performing both as a soloist and consort singer; most frequently as a member of The Tallis Scholars, with whom she has toured five continents, and on whose BBC Music Magazine Recording of the Year 2021 she appears. Emily is often featured as a soloist with chamber groups including Chelys Consort of Viols, Concentus VII and the City Bach Collective. Recent performances include Iberian polyphony with La Grande Chapelle, Handel and Purcell with Freiburger Barockorchester, and Bolivian baroque music with Florilegium. Future projects include a programme of music inspired by bells with Evelyn Glennie and Chelys Consort of Viols.

Steven Player has for the last twenty years been performing dances of the renaissance and baroque on concert stages around the world. Researched from original books and manuscripts his vivacious, versatile and rhythmic technique aims to bring life back to the dance that inspired so many great composers. As a performer on the baroque guitar and a dancer he has worked with the finest musicians and ensembles in the early music field, performing and recording regularly. He has appeared, choreographed and taught for TV, theatre, opera, school and the layman, from the northern coast of Norway to the southern tip of Australia.

Brighton Early Music Festival gratefully acknowledges support from Arts Council England and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport through the Culture Recovery Fund.

Triomphez, agréables fleurs!

Triomphez, agréables fleurs!
Répandez vos parfums,
ranimez vos couleurs!

C'est parmi vous qu'Amour
cache sous la verdure
ses feux les plus ardents, ses plus aimables traits.
Le printemps vous doit ses attraits,
vous parez la saison qui pare la nature.

Vous tenez le rang suprême
sur le bord de nos ruisseaux;
et vous embellissez, dans les jours les plus beaux,
la beauté même.

Pan et Sirinx

Dans la florissante Arcadie
Sirinx brillait par ses appas,
elle perdait les jours les plus beaux de sa vie;
elle était jeune et n'aimait pas.

La beauté peu durable languit sans les désirs,
Vénus à l'âge aimable attache les plaisirs.
La riante jeunesse doit hommage aux Amours,
et c'est de la tendresse que naissent les beaux jours.

Sirinx fuit le tendre esclavage
de la chaste Diane elle embrasse les lois:
la nuit souvent la trouve en un réduit sauvage
poursuivant les hôtes des bois.

Cessez de fatiguer des monstres indomptables
portez des coups plus doux et plus certains:
les traits qui partent de vos mains
ne sont pas les plus redoutables.

L'astre du jour dorait le sommet des montagnes,
la nymphe s'arme d'un carquois
elle cherche bientôt ses fidèles compagnes,
et les anime par sa voix.

La Déesse nous appelle; le cor sonne assemblons-
nous
faisons tomber sous nos coups le monstre le plus
rebelle.

Que la flèche meurtrière vole et perce au même
instant.

Dieux! que Sirinx sera fière de ce triomphe éclatant.

Triumph, lovely flowers!
Scatter your fragrance,
revive your colours!

It is in your midst that Love,
beneath the foliage, hides
his most ardent desires, his most amiable features.
Spring owes its attractions to you,
you adorn the season that adorns nature.

You hold the highest rank
on the banks of our streams,
and you embellish, on the most beautiful days,
beauty itself.

In flowery Arcadia
Syrinx shone with feminine charm,
squandering the choicest days of her life;
She was young and had never loved.

Ephemeral beauty languishes without desire.
Venus supplies pleasures during this season of life.
Laughing youth owes homage to Love,
and it is the tenderness of youth that yields these
blissful days.

Syrinx shuns the tender slavery of love
to embrace the laws of chaste Diana:
night often finds her out in the wild,
hunting the creatures of the forest.

Leave off assailing unconquerable monsters
deal the sweetest and most certain blows:
the darts proceeding from your hands
are not the most formidable.

The orb of day gilds the mountain tops,
the nymph arms herself with a quiver
now she searches out her faithful companions
and they are roused by her voice.

The Goddess calls us; the horn sounds; let us
assemble
Let's vanquish with our blows the most rebellious
beast.

Let the deadly arrow fly and instantly find its mark.

Gods! How proud Syrinx will be of this dazzling
triumph.

Déjà Syrinx parcourait l'Erimanthe,
Pan la voit, l'aime, et la poursuit.
D'un fleuve impétueux bientôt l'onde écumante
arrête la Nymphé qui fuit.
Ses cris percent les airs, Secourez-moi, dit-elle,
chastes divinités des eaux.
Ô Ciel! quel prodige nouveaux...

Le Dieu croit vainement embrasser la cruelle,
il n'embrasse que des roseaux.
Il gémit, il se plaint; ces roseaux lui répondent;
il les enfle de ses soupirs
Dieux! avec ses soupirs quels regrets se confondent!
On dirait que Syrinx veut flatter ses désirs.

Restes plaintifs de l'objet que j'adore,
échos infortunés de mes cris impuissants,
c'est par vous que Syrinx peut me parler encore;
conservez à jamais de si tendres accents
que les aimables sons que vous ferez entendre
fassent naître les plus beaux feux:
rendez la bergère plus tendre;
rendez le berger plus heureux.

Amour tu n'as que des charmes,
trop heureux qui suit tes lois,
Syrinx te prête des armes,
tu triomphe dans nos bois.
Tu n'y causes point de peines,
tu prévois tous les désirs,
et l'amant n'y prend des chaînes,
que de la main des plaisirs.

Forêts paisibles

Forêts paisibles,
jamais un vain désir
ne trouble ici nos cœurs.
S'ils sont sensibles,
Fortune, ce n'est pas au prix de tes faveurs.

Dans nos retraites,
Grandeur, ne viens jamais
offrir de tes faux attraits!
Ciel, tu les as faites
pour l'innocence et pour la paix.

Jouissons dans nos asiles,
jouissons des biens tranquilles!
Ah! Peut-on être heureux,
quand on forme d'autres vœux?

Syrinx was already crossing the River Erymanthos.
Pan sees her, desires her, and pursues her.
From the violent current, a foaming wave soon
stops the nymph in her flight.
Her cries pierce the air, 'Help me!' she implores,
'chaste gods of the water.
O heavens! What an astonishing marvel...'

In vain the God hopes to embrace the cruel one,
he embraces only the reeds.
He groans, he complains; the reeds respond to him;
he stirs them with his sighs
Gods! What sorrows are intertwined with his sighs!
One would say Syrinx wished to gratify his desires.

Plaintive remains of the object I love,
unhappy echoes of my powerless cries,
it is through you that Syrinx can yet speak to me;
preserve such tender strains forever,
that the obliging tones you cause to be heard
might give rise to the most exquisite ardour:
render the shepherdess more tender;
the shepherd more fortunate.

Love, you have only enchantments
for those lucky few who follow your laws,
Syrinx lends you arms,
and you triumph in our forest.
You cause no pain at all,
you anticipate every desire,
and the lover is not bound
except by the hand of pleasure.

Peaceful forests,
never may a vain desire
trouble here our hearts.
If they are sensitive,
Fortune, it is not because of your favours.

In our retreats,
Greatness, never come
to offer your false allurements!
Heaven, you have created them
for innocence and for peace.

Let us enjoy our refuges,
let us enjoy peaceful well-being.
Ah! Can one be happy
in wishing for anything else?

Translations by Emily Atkinson