



Thursday 20 October, 8pm
St George's Church

MASTERCLASS FOR YOUNG SINGERS

Talented young singers, familiar to BREMF audiences, work on Italian 17th-century solo and ensemble music with **Michele Pasotti** and **Carlotta Colombo** of La Fonte Musica

Participants:

Kat Carson *soprano*

Marcella Di Garbo *soprano*

Horizon Voices *vocal ensemble*

Lindsey James & Freya Turton *sopranos*

Sophie Timms *mezzo-soprano*

James Rhodes *tenor*

Peter Edge *bass*

Repertoire by **Sigismondo d'India** 1582–1629 to include:

O del cielo d'Amore

Là tra l'sangue e le morti

Chi nutrisce

Che non t'ami, cor mio?

Gia mai l'alma respire

Brighton Early Music Festival gratefully acknowledges financial support from the Behrens Foundation.

The performers

Since his beginnings with the electric guitar, **Michele Pasotti** has played and listened to very different musical genres.

He graduated in Lute with highest honours, studying with Massimo Lonardi and attending masterclasses with Hopkinson Smith and Paul O'Dette. He later specialised in Renaissance music theory and counterpoint at the Civica Scuola di Musica in Milan and deepened his study of late medieval practice both in Milan and Barcelona (Esmuc). At Rome's University 'Tor Vergata' he attended the specialist course Ars Nova in Europa, obtaining a first class degree. He also received a first class degree in Theoretical Philosophy with a dissertation on Martin Heidegger.

From 2013 to 2018 Michele held an Ars Nova course at the Civica Scuola di Musica di Milano. He is professor of Lute at the Conservatorio di Musica 'B. Maderna' in Cesena. As a soloist (lutes, theorbo, baroque guitar), his repertoire spans from the Middle Ages to the late 18th century.

Michele is founder and director of La Fonte Musica, the centre of his musical life, and is also invited to conduct other ensembles including Capella Cracoviensis and Harmonia Cordis. He plays regularly with Il Giardino Armonico, I Barocchisti, Les Musiciens du Louvre, Collegium Vocale, Arcangelo, Akademie für Alte Musik Berlin, Balthasar-Neumann Ensemble, Les Musiciens du Prince, Il Ricerca Continuo, Sheridan Ensemble and Cecilia Bartoli.

He also loves playing chamber music with Alena Dantcheva, and his trio Il Ricerca Continuo with Giulia Genini and Alessandro Palmeri.

lafontemusica.com

Carlotta Colombo graduated in Opera from the Conservatory in Como and furthered her studies in Renaissance and Baroque Singing at the Guido Cantelli Conservatory in Novara, studying with Professor Roberto Balconi. She also gained a First Class Honours Degree in Philosophy from the University of Milan. Carlotta has completed numerous specialist courses and masterclasses with internationally renowned artists including Emma Kirkby, Evelyn Tubb, Claudio Cavina, Paolo Beschi and Michael Fields.

She has performed at many leading European festivals including Bologna Festival, I Pomeriggi Musicali di Milano, Festival dei Due Mondi in Spoleto, Roma Festival Barocco, Urbino Musica Antica, Styriarte in Graz, Trigonale, Osterfestival in Tirol, Klangvokal Musikfestival in Dortmund, Schwetzingen Festival, Days of Early Music in Bratislava, Printemps des Arts in Monte Carlo, Musica Sacra Maastricht, Festtage Alte Musik Basel, Festival Cervantino in Guanajuato, and Sastamala Gregoriana, and has performed as a soloist or in ensemble in major concert halls including Teatro alla Scala in Milan, Teatro Comunale in Ferrara, Teatro alla Pergola in Florence, Boulez Saal in Berlin, Theater an der Wien, Wiener Konzerthaus, and Théâtre des Champs-Élysées in Paris.

Carlotta has sung with prominent Italian ensembles including: La Venexiana, laBarocca, Ensemble Zefiro, Il Canto di Orfeo, Fantazyas, Concerto Romano, La divina armonia, La Fonte Musica and il Pomo d'Oro, and has collaborated with many leading baroque specialist conductors. In 2022, she was named a finalist in the International Cesti Competition in Innsbruck.

carlottacolombo.com

Kat Carson is an English soprano based in Amsterdam. She specialises in early music, with a passion for the baroque repertoire. She has performed at BREMF many times, including two different productions of Francesca Caccini's *La liberazione di Ruggero dall'isola di Alcina*.

After graduating with a first class degree from the University of Sussex, she moved to Amsterdam and completed her Masters in Music Performance at FONTYS Hogeschool voor de Kunsten. The basis of her thesis was interdisciplinary work with a focus on a combination of Historical Gesture and Modern Movement, which was the foundation for her ensemble Nymphes et Monstres. In her time in Amsterdam she has had the privilege of performing on some of the largest stages the country has to offer, such as the Tivoli Vredenburg (Rotterdam) and the Muziekgebouw Aan t'ij (Amsterdam) and was recently a recitalist at the Muziekgebouw in Eindhoven.

Above all, Kat values audience engagement in her performances, and brings passion, emotional engagement and excitement to all of her work.

katcarson.com

Italian soprano **Marcella Di Garbo** began to study singing with Maestro Davide Rocca in Milan, later graduating from the Conservatorio N. Paganini in Genoa and then going on to postgraduate study with Sally Burgess at the Royal College of Music.

Marcella's first appearance at BREMF was the role of Enchanted Plant in the filmed production of Francesca Caccini's *La liberazione di Ruggero dall'isola di Alcina*, directed by Thomas Guthrie. Other roles include Musetta in Puccini's *La bohème* (Auditorium San Barnaba, Brescia); Nedda (cover) in Leoncavallo's *I Pagliacci* (Varna State Theatre); Countess in Mozart's *Le nozze di Figaro* and Alice Ford in Verdi's *Falstaff* (Teatro Martinetti, Garlasco); soprano soloist in Handel's *Messiah* (Basilica di Sant'Eufemia, Milan), soprano soloist in Orff's *Carmina Burana* (St Albans Abbey); and Schoenberg's *Pierrot Lunaire* with Ensemble Matters. She also has a regular duo partnership with the pianist Danilo Mascetti.

Besides performing, Marcella is an enthusiastic and expert teacher of children and beginner singers. In April 2019 she founded Opera POT, an annual workshop for young singers culminating in shows of opera scenes.

marcelladigarbo.com

Horizon Voices is a professional vocal ensemble seeking to broaden musical horizons through a programme of education workshops, outreach projects and interactive performances. Founded through a shared passion for performance, education and outreach, the ensemble aims to deliver interactive music-making projects and events for diverse audiences including children, young people and the wider community. Curating projects around particular themes encourages participants to explore, interact with and appreciate a wide range of classical and contemporary choral and vocal repertoire.

The ensemble focuses on developing a musical culture which is accessible, engaging and innovative, and is excited to be part of this year's BREMF Live! Young Artist Scheme to explore different approaches to presenting early choral music in both conventional and new contexts.

horizonvoices.com