



A 2 Violes Esgales

early music



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Jonathan Dunford and Sylvia Abramowicz met at the Schola Cantorum in Basel where they studied under Jordi Savall. In 1985 they established the ensemble A Deux Violes Esgales, named after the celebrated manuscript of M. de Sainte Colombe. The aim of the ensemble is to showcase the important heritage of the repertoire for viola da gamba, which includes such a wealth of manuscripts (many of them mislaid and forgotten), and thereby to present this novel repertoire afresh to today's audiences. It is a family adventure, since the two viol players are sometimes joined by their son Thomas Dunford, one of the most gifted lutenists of his generation.

The programmes assembled by A Deux Violes Esgales take us to Charles I's England or Louis XIV's France, not forgetting the Italy of Veronese or the Germany of Frederick the Great. They do not focus exclusively on the viola da gamba repertoire but are also keen to feature vocal works such as Couperin's *Leçons de Ténèbres* or *Les Surprises de L'Amour*, a Rameau opera in a period transcription for two viols!

A Deux Violes Esgales is pleased to be able to collaborate with some inspired singers, an approach that serves only to emphasise the viola da gamba's intimate side and makes for concerts that are rich in discoveries and rediscoveries in all genres.



Programme suggestions

LA CABANE DE SAINTE-COLOMBE

Sylvia Abramowicz bass viol
Jonathan Dunford bass viol

According to the legend “ Marais took the time in summer to steal into Sainte-Colombe’s garden where his master habitually shut himself up in a little wooden cabinet he had built between the branches of a mulberry tree. There Sainte-Colombe could play the viol without distraction and more beautifully.”
Seat yourself under this hut and behold the wonders of the viola da gamba in 17th century Paris!
M. de Sainte Colombe, Dubuisson, Nicolas Hotman, Jean Baptiste Lully, Marin Marais

MARIN MARAIS The Suites for two viols, transcriptions for theorbo

Sylvia Abramowicz anonym bass viol (13th century)
Jonathan Dunford bass viol (Salomon Paris - 1741)
Thomas Dunford theorbo

Marais’ first book is dedicate to his master the illustrious Lully. This book published the 20th August 1686 has no accompaniment and only in 1689 does Marais publish the basso continuo part. He explains that one can “play it on the harpsichord or the theorbo, the latter is well assorted with the viol”. A 2 Violes Esgales gives us an inspired reading of these beautiful suites of dances taking us back to Versailles and all its glory.

CAPTAIN HUME’S TAVERN The best tunes by Tobias Hume & John Dowland with texts from the time

Sylvia Abramowicz lyra viol
Jonathan Dunford lyra viol and declamation (in english)
Thomas Dunford Renaissance lute and declamation (in English)

An Elizabethan feast where we propose to attend a musical and verbal duel between Tobias Hume & John Dowland with extracts of Poeticall Musicke, Musically Humours & the most beautiful airs for the lute by Dowland.

THE LILY AND THE ROSE

Anna Reinhold mezzo soprano
Thomas Dunford lute
Sylvia Abramowicz treble & bass viol
Jonathan Dunford bass viol

A moving vestige of the links created between England and France at the beginning of the 17th century. This program honors the French and English musicians present at the court of Charles I and Henriette-Marie (Henri IV’s daughter). The program illustrates the magnificent airs by Guédron and Boësset translated in English for the Queen. This program therefore has some surprises, such as French lute songs fashionable at the French court transformed across the Channel into solo pieces for the lyra-viol.

Guédron, Boësset, Boucan, François Richard, Richard Mico, Jacques Gautier & William Drew

A MUSICALL DREAME Ayres for the Lute, Viol and Voice

Reinoud Van Mechelen tenor
Thomas Dunford lute
Sylvia Abramowicz lyra viol & treble viol
Jonathan Dunford lyra viol

From Tobias Hume to Thomas Campion passing by John Dowland & Alfonso Ferrabosco, a trip in England from 1605 to 1613 where the lutenists and viol players compose airs for the Masques that were extremely popular at the end of Elisabeth’s reign, and at the court of James I until the death of Charles I.

John Daniel, Tobias Hume, Thomas Ford, Robert Jones, Alfonso Ferrabosco, John Maynard...

AROUND PURCELL’S FANTASIES FOR VIOL

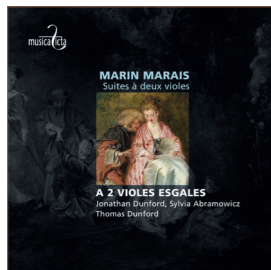
Liam Fennelly treble viol
Sylvia Abramowicz tenor viol
Jonathan Dunford bass viol
Lucile Boulanger bass viol

Purcell’s fantasies for viol belong to the mythical and essential works of the viol consort repertoire; they mark the culmination of a well-established tradition in England.
We present in this program a selection of pieces from famous and more obscure composers who surely inspired Purcell in the development of these masterpieces.

Henry Purcell, William Byrd, Thomas Tomkins, Elway Bevin, John Dowland, Orlando Gibbons, Alfonso Ferrabosco, John Jenkins.

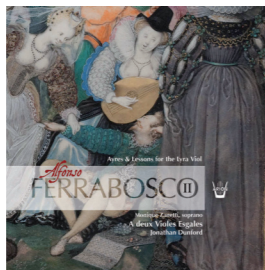
Discography

Selection of the last releases



MARIN MARAIS
Suites à deux violes
Musica Ficta - 2015

Sylvia Abramowicz bass viol
Jonathan Dunford bass viol
Thomas Dunford archlute



ALFONSO FERRABOSCO
Ayres & lessons for the lyra viol
Arion - 2014

Monique Zanetti soprano
Sylvia Abramowicz lyra viol & treble viol
Jonathan Dunford lyra viol & bass viol
Thomas Dunford lute



FRANÇOIS COUPERIN
Leçons de ténèbres
Hérisson - 2013

Monique Zanetti soprano
Françoise Masset soprano

Jonathan Dunford bass viol
James Holland theorbe
Mathieu Dupouy harpsichord



BERTRAND DE BACILLY
ou l'art d'orner le beau chant
Saphir Productions - 2012

Monique Zanetti soprano
Paul Willenbrock bass
Sylvia Abramowicz treble & bass viol
Jonathan Dunford bass viol
Claire Antonini lute

Thomas Dunford archlute & theorbo



JEAN-PHILIPPE RAMEAU
Les Surprises de l'Amour
Alpha - 2011

Monique Zanetti soprano
Stephan MacLeod baritone
Sylvia Abramowicz bass viol
Jonathan Dunford bass viol
Pierre Trocellier harpsichord





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