

John Dowland – Lute Songs (2012)

Written by bluesever

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1. John Dowland - *Dear if you change + Burst forth my tears* 2. Anonymus - *The Eglantine Branche* 3. John Dowland - *Sorrow, stay* 4. Philip Rosseter - *What then is love but mourning?* 5. John Dowland - *Sir John Smith, his Almain P.47 + Can she excuse my wrongs* 6. John Dowland - *A shepherd in a shade + Away with these self-loving lads + The gilly flower + Awake, sweet love* 7. John Dowland - *Galliard to Lachrimae P.46 + Flow my teares, "Lachrimae" + I saw my lady weep* 8. John Dowland - *Come away, come sweet love + Fine knacks for ladies + Say, love, if ever thou didst find* 9. John Dowland - *Now, oh now I must part + Mr Dowland's midnight P.99 + Come heavy sleep* 10. John Dowland - *Tell me, true love* Damien Guillon - Counter Tenor Eric Bellocq – Lute 2012.08.12, Sant Genís Church te Torroela de Montgrí Broadcast, AVRO (Radio 4 Concerthuis)

Damien Guillon has chosen for his first solo recital disc a refined, subtle and melancholy repertoire, which he has gone on to explore in depth and polish in genuine chamber style with the lutenist Eric Bellocq, an expert in Renaissance music.

“Dowland is heir to the English polyphonic tradition (middle age conception) where words and music coincide not on meaning but through proportions generated by the planets, however he also explores the new modes of expression which were emerging on the continent related to Italian Renaissance which linked meaning of the words and musical effect, favoring harmony towards polyphony.

His ambivalent attitude seems to have caught the attention of the performers on this recording. Damien Guillon and Éric Bellocq succeed in finding an unprecedented balance between these two facets of the composer’s art. Both singer and lutenist dramatise their discourse by means of great variety of dynamics, yet without breaking up the polyphonic lines.” Jean-Luc Tamby

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Eric Bellocq plays a liuto forte from André Burguete's conception, an instrument which enables the player to develop a larger sound possibilities creating a true dialogue with the singer and a great freedom in improvisation.

Damien Guillon started at an early age as a member of child's choir Brittany, then at the Versailles Baroque Center while studying organ and harpsichord. In 2004, he was admitted to the countertenor Andreas Scholl's class at the Schola Cantorum Basiliensis... He was soon spotted by such well-known conductors as Jordi Savall, Vincent Dumestre, Hervé Niquet, Jérôme Correas, Philippe Pierlot, Jean-Claude Malgoire, Christophe Rousset, William Christie, and Philippe Herreweghe.

He has founded his own ensemble, Le Banquet Céleste, with which he has performed at Les Nuits Musicales d'Uzès and the Froville Festival. Their repertoire includes Vivaldi's Nisi Dominus, Pergolesi's Stabat Mater, and the cantatas for alto and obligato organ of J. S. Bach, which will be Damien Guillon's next recording project on Zig-Zag Territoires.

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