

CARLOS NÚÑEZ AND JORDI SAVALL HESPÈRION XXI

CELTIC UNIVERSE

MAY 7, 2018

CARLOS NÚÑEZ

Galician bagpipes, pastoral pipes (Baroque ancestor of the Irish uilleann pipes), and whistles

PANCHO ÁLVAREZ

Viola caipira (Brazilian guitar of Baroque origin)

XURXO NÚÑEZ

Percussion, tambourins, and Galician pandeiros

ANDREW LAWRENCE-KING

Irish harp and psaltery

FRANK MCGUIRE

Bodhran

JORDI SAVALL

Treble viol by Nicholas Chapuis, Paris c. 1750 and lyra-viol (bass viol) by Pelegrino Zanetti, Venice 1553

CARLOS NÚÑEZ AND JORDI SAVALL

Direction

Conception of the program: Jordi Savall & Carlos Núñez

North and South of Europe Ireland, Scotland, Brittany, Galicia, and the Basque Country

A dialogue between Ancient, Historical, and Modern traditions

INTRODUCTION

Air for the Bagpipes

THE CALEDONIA SET

Traditional Irish: *Archibald MacDonald of Keppoch* Traditional Irish: *The Musical Priest / Scotch Mary*

Captain Simon Fraser (1816 Collection): Caledonia's Wail for Niel Gow

Traditional Irish: Sackow's Jig

CELTIC UNIVERSE IN GALICIA

Alalá En Querer Maruxiña Diferencias sobre la Gayta

THE LORD MOIRA SET

Dan R. MacDonald: Abergeldie Castle Strathspey Traditional Scottish: Regents Rant - Lord Moira

Ryan's Mammoth Collection (Boston, 1883): Lord Moira's Hornpipe

FLOWERS OF EDINBURGH

Charlie Hunter: *The Hills of Lorne* Reel: *The Flowers of Edinburgh*

Niel Gow: Lament for the Death of his Second Wife

Fisher's Hornpipe

Tomas Anderson: Peter's Peerie Boat

INTERMISSION

THE DONEGAL SET

Traditional Irish: Tuttle's Reel

Traditional Scottish: Lady Mary Hay's Scots Measure

Turlough O'Carolan: Carolan's Farewell

Donegal tradition: Gusty's Frolics

Jimmy Holme's Favorite

CAROLAN'S HARP

Duncan Burnett: Ane Groundel

Anonymous Scottish: Dumbarton's Drums Beat Bonny

Traditional Scottish: The Reel of Tullochgorum

CELTIC UNIVERSE FROM BRITTANY TO BASQUE COUNTRY

Breton Gwerz: O Soñjal

Kunplitzekoa

Basque lullaby: Aurtxo txikia negarrez

Biribilketa

IRISH LANDSCAPES

Turlough O'Carolan: The Lamentation of Owen Roe O'Neil

The Hills of Ireland
The Morning Dew
Apples in the Winter
The Rocky Road to Dublin
The Kid on the Mountain
Morrison's Jig

Exclusive North American Management for Jordi Savall and Hespèrion XXI: Alliance Artist Management, 5030 Broadway, Suite 812, New York, NY 10034



JORDI SAVALL

JORDI SAVALL

For more than fifty years, Jordi Savall, one of the most versatile musical personalities of his generation, has rescued musical gems from obscurity and neglect, bringing them back for all to enjoy. A tireless researcher into early music, he interprets and performs the repertory both as a gambist and a conductor. His activities as a concert performer, teacher, researcher, and creator of new musical and cultural projects have made him a leading figure in the reappraisal of historical music. Together with Montserrat Figueras, he founded the ensembles Hespèrion XXI (1974), La Capella Reial de Catalunya (1987), and Le Concert des Nations (1989), with whom he explores and creates a world of emotion and beauty shared with millions of early music enthusiasts around the world.

Savall has recorded and released more than 230 discs covering the Medieval, Renaissance, Baroque, and Classical music repertories, with a special focus on the Hispanic and Mediterranean musical heritage, receiving many awards and distinctions such as the Midem Classical Award, the International Classical Music Award, and the Grammy Award. His concert programs have made music an instrument of mediation to achieve understanding and peace between different and sometimes warring peoples and cultures. Accordingly, guest artists appearing with his ensembles include Arab, Israeli, Turkish, Greek, Armenian, Afghan, Mexican, and North American musicians. In 2008 Jordi Savall was appointed European Union Ambassador for intercultural dialogue and, together with Montserrat

Figueras, was named "Artist for Peace" under the UNESCO "Goodwill Ambassadors" program.

Jordi Savall's prolific musical career has brought him the highest national and international distinctions, including honorary doctorates from the Universities of Evora (Portugal), Barcelona (Catalonia), Louvain (Belgium), and Basel (Switzerland), the order of Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur (France), the Praetorius Music Prize awarded by the Ministry of Culture and Science of Lower Saxony, the Gold Medal of the Generalitat of Catalonia, and the prestigious Léonie Sonning Prize, which is considered the Nobel prize of the music world. "Jordi Savall testifies to a common cultural inheritance of infinite variety. He is a man for our time" (The Guardian, 2011).

CARLOS NÚÑEZ

Carlos Núñez is a world-renowned player of the gaita, the bagpipes of Galicia, the region in northwest Spain, rich with the expressive traditions of Celtic music. He is also an internationally acclaimed headliner on the Celtic/World Music scene.

As a teenager he was discovered by Irish legends The Chieftains in his native Galicia. He became an honorary member of the band and they recorded a Grammy Awardwinning CD together, Santiago. Sony Music has released ten albums to date since his debut in 1996, accumulating several Platinum and Gold CDs and DVDs, as well as two Latin Grammy nominations. They feature a wide variety of artists such as The Chieftains, Ry Cooder, and Jackson Browne.

Although this is the first time Núñez has toured with Jordi Savall, both have previously performed together in Europe, most recently in Galicia's Santiago de Compostela Cathedral, performing music associated with Santiago and the The Way pilgrimage.

Carlos Núñez is also classically trained on the recorder and often plays with orchestras around the world, having performed at Carnegie Hall, Boston Symphony Hall, Musikverein in Vienna, and the Royal Albert Hall in London.



CARLOS NÚÑEZ Galician bagpipes



PANCHO ÁLVAREZ viola caipira

PANCHO ÁIVAREZ

Pancho Álvarez is one of Galicia's leading folk music artists and has been a member of Carlos Núñez's band for over two decades. He lives in southern Galicia, near the Portuguese border, and continues to explore the ancient Galician-Portuguese shared heritage. He has recorded several solo CDs devoted to the music of Galicia, specifically that of the blind singers accompanied on fiddle or hurdy-gurdy in Medieval style. This music, which goes back to Homer or Celtic bardic times, survived in rural Galicia until the 1970s.



XURXO NÚÑEZ, percussion

XURXO NÚÑEZ

Xurxo, Carlos Núñez's younger brother, started playing traditional Galician percussion as a child while Carlos played the pipes. He went on to study classical percussion at the Conservatorio Superior de Música de Vigo. At the age of 12 he played for the first time with The Chieftains and has since recorded or performed with a number of renowned Celtic musicians. Núñez plays a variety of percussion instruments such as the bodhrán, marimba, vibraphone, and skin drums as well as acoustic and electric guitars, piano, and accordion.



ANDREW
LAWRENCE-KING
Irish harp and psaltery

ANDREW LAWRENCE-KING

Andrew Lawrence-King is one of the world's leading performers of Early Music and the most-recorded harpist of all time. He has directed at La Scala, Milan and the Sydney Opera House, and won Russia's highest theatrical award, the Golden Mask. Other awards include the Noah Greenberg Prize for musicology/performance collaboration, and with Jordi Savall he won a Grammy (2011) and Australia's Helpmann Award (2013). King teaches at London's Guildhall School of Music and the Royal Danish Academy of Music in Copenhagen.

FRANK MCGUIRE

Frank McGuire is a versatile and talented bodhran/whistle player and vocalist. He has been playing music since he was old enough to hold on to an instrument, having had a father and grandfather who both played traditional music. McGuire has played all over the world and has performed many times at "Celtic Connections" with banjo maestro Alison Brown. In 2010, Frank was asked to record with the legendary viol player, Jordi Savall and harpist Andrew Lawrence-King. This album, *Celtic Viol*, Volume 2, was awarded one of the highest honors for music, The Premio De la Musica, judged by members of the Spanish Academy of Music, Arts, and Knowledge.



FRANK MCGUIRE bodhran



HESPÈRION XXI

Ancient music's most important value stems from its ability as a universal artistic language to transmit feelings, emotions and ancestral ideas that even today can enthrall the contemporary listener. With a repertoire that encompasses the period between the 10th and 18th centuries, Hespèrion XXI searches continuously for new points of union between the East and West, with a clear desire for integration and for the recovery of international musical heritage, especially that of the Mediterranean basin and with links to the New World.

In 1974 Jordi Savall and Montserrat Figueras, together with Lorenzo Alpert and Hopkinson Smith, founded the ancient music ensemble Hespèrion XX in Basel as a way of recovering and disseminating the rich and fascinating musical repertoire prior to the 19th century on the basis of historical criteria and the use of original instruments.

The name *Hespèrion* means "an inhabitant of Hesperia," which in ancient Greek referred to the two most westerly

peninsulas in Europe: the Iberian and the Italian. It was also the name given to the planet Venus as it appeared in the west. At the turn of the 21st century Hespèrion XX became known as Hespèrion XXI.

Today Hespèrion XXI is central to the understanding of the music of the period between the Middle Ages and the Baroque. Their efforts to recover works, scores, instruments, and unpublished documents have an incalculable value. On one hand, their rigorous research provides new information and understanding about the historical knowledge of the period, and on the other hand, the exquisite performances enable people to freely enjoy the aesthetic and spiritual delicacy of the works of this period.

NOTES

Program Notes © Elizabeth Bergman

"CELTIC" MUSIC

This program of folk music from Ireland, Scotland, French Brittany, and Galicia (in the northwest of the Iberian Peninsula), played on authentic instruments, celebrates the Celtic musical tradition.

What is the Celtic musical tradition?

There is no real definition of "Celtic" as a cultural or musical tradition. The word itself was first used in Greek and Roman writings to describe people encountered outside of the bounds of those empires. The term was not used again for nearly a thousand years. During the late 18th century, "Celtic" was revived as an ideal inspired by the aesthetics of Romanticism (which prized folklore) and ideals of nationalism (which infused the political concept of the state with a new sense of identity and belonging). Today, peoples from Ireland, Scotland, and Wales, as well as northern France and Galicia, have all been described as "Celtic." Those who embrace the identity enumerate seven "Celtic nations": Scotland, Ireland, Wales, the Isle of Man, Cornwall, Brittany, and Galicia.

"Celtic music," as described by scholar Lois Kuter, possesses a "geographical sense," but not a specific set of

musical traits. "Celtic," she concludes, "is a convenient way to bundle the musical traditions of different Celtic countries." Celtic music today loosely applies to a variety of musical styles and traditions, that make use of written and oral traditions, as well as folk instruments like the Irish harp (the psaltery), Galician pipes, uilleann pipes (pronounced "ill-yun"), bodhran ("bough-rawn," a type of drum), and viols (precursors to today's orchestral string instruments). Several types of pipes are used in Celtic music; the Scottish highland bagpipes are most familiar, but these were specifically outdoor pipes, often associated with the military. Other types of pipes are quieter, meant to be played indoors while sitting down as accompaniment to dancing or song. Whistles are among the most ancient instruments; indeed, the oldest known musical instrument ever discovered (at 35,000 years old) is a basic whistle. During the 19th century, the tin whistle became popular throughout Britain and Ireland as an inexpensive, massproduced commodity.

In general, what falls under the guise of Celtic music includes jigs, reels, and other dances, along with tuneful, sentimental ballads from the "Celtic" regions. Dance music generally divides into four or eight-bar strains that can be repeated and varied at will by the performers. Sprightly rhythms, foursquare structures, and predictable patterns allow both musicians and dancers to coordinate their efforts, but musicians of course enliven that basic design through changes in register, ornamentation, and instrumentation. *The Musical Priest* is an Irish reel that becomes at once quickly familiar, given the limited number of repeating tunes, and endlessly entertaining, thanks to the embellishments and graceful, quick turns that add interest to the basic melodies.

The work by Niel Gow exemplifies another standard genre of Celtic folk music: the lament. Gow was the most famous fiddler in Scotland during the 18th century and composed scores of dance tunes. Yet he is best known for his "Lament for the Death of his Second Wife," composed after the death of his second wife, Margaret Urquhart. The sentiment lies not only in the title, but also in the slow moving melody. Folk fiddle (as opposed to classical violin technique) refrains from pronounced vibrato and leans in

Program Notes Continued

to the throaty, raw resonance of horsehair being scraped across gut strings.

Given the nature of "Celtic" as a geographical description of an imagined community, the program tonight is divided by region. "Caledonia" is the Roman name given to Scotland. Lord Moira of Ireland was wounded in the battle of Bunker Hill fighting for the British; the lively hornpipe that bears his name is found in a collection of Irish and Scottish tunes published in the United States at the end of the 19th century. *Lord Moira's Hornpipe* is found in *Ryan's Mammoth Collection: 1050 Reels and Jigs, Hornpipes, Clogs, Walk-arounds...* (1882), compiled by William Bradbury Ryan, who combed the streets of his native Boston for fiddle tunes, no doubt transcribing many as performed by Boston's burgeoning population of Irish immigrants.

Galicia sits on top of Portugal on the Atlantic coast of the Iberian peninsula. Inhabitants before the Roman period (ca. 300 BCE) were part of the Celtic federation and spoke a Celtic language, now lost. (Galician, the language spoken there today, is related to Portuguese.) *Gaitas*, the Celtic pipes, dominate the folk music of the region.

Donegal is an Irish-speaking county on the Atlantic coast of Ireland that dates to prehistoric times. Donegal Town was the seat of the O'Donnell dynasty, the Gaelic family that ruled a region in west Ulster and opposed the colonization of Ireland by England. Turlough O'Carolan (1670-1738) was a blind Irish harp player and famed singer. His *Carolan's Farewell* is considered a prime example of "Gaelic harping." It is often claimed (without much evidence) that Carolan wrote the tune shortly before his death.

So much folk music is preserved not in publications, however, but through the oral tradition. "Our concert is a fervent tribute to the art of transmission," the artists write about their own performance tonight. Recognizing that "the immense repertoire of Celtic music comes from various origins in time and space," the musicians believe in uniting "tradition and innovation" so as to preserve the past and create the future. Thus Celtic music is invented anew on every concert stage on which it is performed and in every venue where it is heard.



MUSIC IN THE GALLERIES

PATTERSON/SUTTON DUO May 13, 2018, 1:00 and 2:00 PM

Clyfford Still Museum 1250 Bannock Street, Denver

With Kim Patterson on cello and Patrick Sutton on guitar, the program will feature Hector Villa-Lobos's Aria from Bachianas Brasileiras No. 5, Ricardo Iznaola's Musique de Salon, and a new work by Welsh composer, Stephen Goss, inspired by the work of Clyfford Still. Please join us for one of two identical performances at 1:00 or 2:00 PM.

Music is free with admission to the galleries. FCM patrons can purchase \$5 half price tickets (if purchased in advance) to enter the museum on performance days. Link (with discount code) is available on our website.



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MUSIC WITH FRIENDS

ENSEMBLE FAUCHEUX Tuesday, May 15, 2018, 6:00 PM Syntax Physic Opera 554 S. Broadway, Denver

554 S. Broadway, Denver FREE

Join Friends of Chamber Music and Ensemble Faucheux for another "Music with Friends" concert at Syntax Physic Opera on Tuesday, May 15, 2018, 6:00 – 7:00 PM.

Ensemble Faucheux is a string quartet featuring Colorado Symphony Asst. Principal Violist Catherine Beeson, with Robyn Julyan (violin), Ben Tomkins, (violin), and Heidi Mausbach (cello).

Program:

John Corigliano: Snapshot – Circa 1909 Sahba Aminikia: One Day; Tehran (2009) Ayumi Okada: String Quartet No. 1 (2009) Benjamin Tomkins: Tangos for 4 Lonely People

Concert is free to the public. Seating is limited – come early to grab a seat and enjoy some great happy hour food and drink specials. Questions? Call 303-388-9839 or email tickets@friendsofchambermusic.com.



FCM IN THE COMMUNITY

Friends of Chamber Music continues to explore different paths to bring chamber music to new audiences. At the beginning of the season, FCM initiated our "Music With Friends" series, once again taking chamber music outside the traditional hall, this time to Syntax Physic Opera, a vibrant pub/restaurant and performance space on South Broadway. This free concert series kicked off in September with a preview concert by the American String Quartet and poet Tom Sleigh, followed in November by violinist Augustin Hadelich and pianist Conor Hanick. In March, the Altius Quartet performed their "Shuffle" program, playing a diverse selection of pieces including Ligeti, Mendelssohn, and Led Zeppelin, all randomly chosen by audience members. On May 15, Ensemble Faucheux will perform our final "Music with Friends" for the season. Meet up with friends at Syntax, grab dinner, and hear an eye-opening concert of new music (see page 10 for details).

FCM's outreach program continues to reach under-served communities. Last August, in partnership with the Alzheimer's Association, we sponsored a sing-along program at the Schlessman Public Library. In September, the American String Quartet, along with author and Marine-veteran Phil Klay and poet Tom Sleigh, presented "Lyric in the Time of War" in a powerful program for veterans and staff at Denver's VA Hospital. In May, the Altius Quartet will perform for a group of incarcerated women at the Denver Women's Correctional Facility. FCM is committed to sharing the beauty of chamber music throughout the Denver area. Thank you for your generous contributions, making this programming possible.

THE FOLLOWING FRIENDS have made gifts in the last 12 months. Your generous support is invaluable in assuring our continued standard of excellence. Thank you!

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