

## PARTHENIA | CONSORT OF VIOLS

Beverly Au, bass viol

Lawrence Lipnik, tenor viol

Rosamund Morley, treble viol

Lisa Terry, bass viol

with SARAH CUNNINGHAM, treble viol

MUSICA UNIVERSALIS: Musical Invention in the Age of Discovery

P R O G R A M   D R A F T

Ludwig Senfl motet a5

*De profundis*

Thomas Stoltzer

*OctoTonorum Melodiae* – eight enthralling fantasias on the eight ecclesiastical modes

Heinrich Isaac

*Der Hund a3*

Senfl

*Tandernack a5*

\*\*\*\*\*

Edward Blakes

*Fantasy a5*

Anonymous Elizabethan Dances

Robert Parsons

*Fantasia De la court*

William Cornish

*Fa la sol a3*

William Mundy

*In nomine a5*

Christopher Tye

*Dum transisset Sabatum III*

William Byrd

*In nomine a5*

Byrd

*Fantasia on "Browning" a5*

SATURDAY, May 5, 2012 at 8 p.m.

Picture Ray Studio, New York City

## BIOGRAPHIES

**Sarah Cunningham** is recognized as one of the foremost viola da gamba players worldwide. She was co-founder, with Monica Huggett, of Trio Sonnerie, with whom she recorded most of the important chamber music for violin and viol, much of it for the first time, and toured on four continents between 1982 and 1997. She was invited by Sir James Galway to collaborate on his CDs of Bach's flute music, and toured with him in Europe and the USA. Her solo CDs were released on ASV and EMI/Virgin Classics, and she has appeared as recitalist from Helsinki to Vancouver. As concerto soloist she recorded works by Telemann with The Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment under Monica Huggett. She has toured and recorded with John Eliot Gardiner, William Christie, Simon Rattle, Trevor Pinnock, Ton Koopman, Gustav Leonhardt, Roger Norrington; with viol consorts Les Filles de Sainte Colombe, Fretwork, Phantasm, Hesperion XX, Parthenia, and the Carthage Consort; and medieval ensembles Sequentia and Virelai. She founded and directed the East Cork Early Music Festival, recognized as "Ireland's premier early music festival", from 2003-2009. She teaches in the recently established Historical Performance Department at the Juilliard School, was professor of viola da gamba in Bremen, Germany from 1990-2000, and has taught at numerous summer academies and master classes worldwide. The 2010-2011 season sees appearances with *Tempesta di Mare* and *Piffaro* in Philadelphia; at the National Gallery of Art in Washington DC; at the Aston Magna and Amherst Early Music Festivals in New England; and teaching engagements for the Viola da Gamba Society of America chapters in Washington DC, Philadelphia, and Greater New York, as well as the International Baroque Institute at Longy, Cambridge, MA. In recent years, alongside her passion for teaching, she is indulging her passion for learning, pursuing interests in improvisation and composition, movement, and visual art, with studies with Meredith Monk, Suprpto Suryadarma, and Val Rossman; and in Process Work with Arnold Mindell.

The viol quartet **PARTHENIA** makes early music present with its repertoire that animates ancient and fresh-commissioned contemporary works with a ravishing sound and a remarkable sense of ensemble. These "local early-music stars," hailed by *The New Yorker* and music critics throughout the world, are "one of the brightest lights in New York's early-music scene."

Parthenia is presented in concerts across America, and produces its own series in New York City, collaborating regularly with the world's foremost early music specialists. The quartet has been featured on radio and television and in prestigious festivals and series as wide-ranging as *Music Before 1800*, the Harriman-Jewell Series, Maverick Concerts, the Regensburg Tage Alter Musik, the Shalin Lui Performing Arts Center, the Pierpont Morgan Library, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Yale Center for British Art, Columbia University's Miller Theatre, and the Cathedral of St. John the Divine.

Parthenia's performances range from its popular touring program, *When Music & Sweet Poetry Agree*, a celebration of Elizabethan poetry and music with actor Paul Hecht, to the complete viol fantasies of Henry Purcell, as well as the complete instrumental works of Robert Parsons, and commissions and premieres of new works annually.

Parthenia has recorded *Les Amours de Mai*, with soprano Julianne Baird and violinist Robert Mealy, *A Reliquary for William Blake*, *Within the Labyrinth*, and was featured on jazz trumpeter Randy Sandke's CD, *Trumpet After Dark*. The ensemble's most recent release is *As if Fell on a Holie Eve - Music for an Elizabethan Christmas*, with soprano Julianne Baird.

Parthenia is represented by GEMS Live! Artist Management and records for MSR Classics. More information about Parthenia's activities can be found at [parthenia.org](http://parthenia.org).

## **NOTE ON PROGRAM**

The journals of Leonardo da Vinci are a testament to his wide-ranging and creative mind. In them we can see the diverse machines he imagined and designed - airplanes, helicopters, irrigation devices, musical instruments, a bridge across the Bosphorus, weapons and war machines - wild but mostly unrealized inventions which have earned him a reputation as the quintessential Renaissance man. Leonardo's work emerged from the humanist spirit that was in the air in 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> century Europe, when the known world was rapidly expanding and people felt personally empowered to think freely and try new things. The revolutions begun by the invention of the printing press had a parallel in music with the books of Petrucci published in Venice from 1501, and composers experimented with new ways of writing polyphonic music, without reference to the chant melodies heard in church. Our program will explore this spirit of invention, presenting sacred and secular music by composers who played with compositional tricks both hidden and explicit to create music whose beauty is easily expressed by the sublime sound of a consort of viols. Composers to be featured are Thomas Stoltzer, Heinrich Isaac, Ludwig Senfl, William Cornish, Christopher Tye, Robert Parsons and William Byrd.

- Rosamund Morley