

Gotham Early Music Scene (GEMS) presents



Thursday, October 15, 2020

1:15 pm

Streamed to YouTube, Facebook, and gemsny.org

Richard Kolb

10-course lute

Music of Robert Ballard and Michelangelo Galilei

Suite in C major (Premier livre de luth, 1611)

Robert Ballard (c.1572–c.1650)

Ballet de M. le Daufin (chants 1, 2, & 3)

Courante d'Angélique #4

Voltes #3 & 5

Suite in C minor

Robert Ballard

Entrée 6

Courante de la Reyne 3

Ballet de la Reyne (chants 1, 2, & 3)

Courante de la Reyne 4

Toccata #23

Alessandro Piccinini (1566–1638)

Corrente #10

Suite in F

Robert Ballard

Entrée 4

Courante d'Angélique 8

Ballet des insencez (Chants 1, 2, 3)

Courante

Sonata in A minor (Primo libro d'intavolatura, 1620)

Michelangelo Galilei (c.1575–c.1640)

Toccata

Corrente

Corrente

Volta

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About the Program

Robert Ballard (c.1572–c.1650) was the most famous French lutenist of the first decades of the 17th century, and an important pioneer in the development of French Baroque musical style. His music consists primarily of stylized versions of dances such as the courante and volte, and arrangements of dance songs drawn from *Ballets de cour*. Ballard's courantes and voltes project the elegance and poise of skilled dancers, with notes in melodies and bass lines frequently accented against the beat, but remain grounded in the esthetics of Renaissance polyphony. Contrapuntal intricacy is moderated by division of melodic lines into fragments, skipping back and forth among the voices in different registers. This texture, referred to as the *Stile luthée* or the *Stile brisée* (broken up style), was to become a hallmark of French keyboard and lute music throughout the Baroque period. Ballard's Italian contemporary Michelangelo Galilei (c.1575–c.1640) spent much of his career at the musically cosmopolitan courts of Poland and Bavaria, where he was heavily influenced by French lute style, but his music retains much of the harmonic intensity and rhythmic drive favored by Italian lutenists.

About the Artist

Richard Kolb's CD of music from Robert Ballard's *Premier Livre* was released in 2019 (Centaur, CRC 3747). He directs the Canzonetta Baroque Ensemble, and has edited the complete works of Barbara Strozzi (Cor Donato Editions, 8 vols). His recording of music from Strozzi's Opus 8 with soprano Elissa Edwards has just been released on the Acis label (APL 90277). Kolb is Scholar in Residence for the New York Continuo Collective, and has held teaching positions at Case-Western Reserve University, the University of Toronto, and the Royal Conservatory of Music (Toronto).

For more about Richard Kolb, please visit www.canzonettalabyrinth.org

NEXT WEEK: Scheid, Lee, Karosi, and Kim
Sanguineus und Melancholius

