

AN EVENING HYMN TO HENRY PURCELL

AYRES, SONGS AND GROUNDS



Henry Purcell is one of the most daring geniuses of English Baroque music. During his short but intense life, he had time to happily tackle all the musical genres of his time.

Characterised by great elegance, his fine and innovative writing was so admired by his peers that they nicknamed him the Orpheus Britannicus, the British Orpheus, during his lifetime. This is proof, if any were needed, of his musical genius, which has continued to inspire and enchant our modern world since the 17th century.

Purcell composed a very large number of Ayres and Songs for solo voice and continuo, which explore a wide variety of subjects: love, drunkenness, politics, magic, madness... To underline the psychic disorders evoked by the texts he set to music, he did not hesitate to use delirious chromaticism, frenzied and passionate melodies, fantastic and obsessive rhythms, sometimes even incoherent. Purcell's Mad Songs are veritable miniature operas and are to be placed at the top of his musical output.



This programme was created in 2008, with more than twenty performances in France.

Ensemble Céladon | Paulin Bündgen

**Paulin Bündgen, countertenor
Nolwenn Le Guern, viola da gamba
Caroline Huynh Van Xuan, harpsichord**

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ENSEMBLE CÉLADON

Borrowing its name from the hero of Honoré d'Urfé's *Astrée*, the ensemble Céladon explores the heritage of early music with charm and fantasy, seeking to reinvent the form of its concerts at each of its events.

Led by the singer Paulin Bündgen, the Ensemble enjoys exploring the repertoire linked to his countertenor tone and seeks to escape from the beaten track between medieval, Renaissance and Baroque music.

Since its formation in 1999, the Céladon Ensemble has created concert programmes with a strong and original identity, such as *Deo Gratias Anglia*, *Devozioni Veneziane*, *Les Douze figures de Marie*, *A la Muse Céleste* and *Nuits Occitanes*. To date, the ensemble has made 10 recordings.

The Ensemble is as interested in recreating forgotten works as it is in staging shows: *Sea Change*, the result of work with the singer-songwriter Kyrie Kristmanson, premiered in Venice and then programmed at the *Café de la Danse* and at the *Théâtre de la Renaissance* in Oullins; *No Time in Eternity*, born of a meeting with the composer Michael Nyman and hosted by the *Musiques en Scène Biennial* in Lyon, the *Théâtre de la Croix-Rousse* and the *LUX Scène nationale* in Valence.

Continuing its musical bridges, the Céladon ensemble created *IEΠOΣ | HIEROS*, a mirror between conducts from the *Notre Dame School* and compositions by Jean-Philippe Goude.

The ensemble Céladon performs in many French and European festivals such as *Ambronay*, *Les Rencontres Musicales de Vézelay*, *Voix et Routes Romanes*, *Music in the Dales* (UK), *Les Nuits de Septembre* (BE), *Fondazione Pietà de' Turchini* (IT), *Julita* (SE), *Musica da Povoia de Varzim* (PT), *Tage Alter Musik Regensburg* (DE).

