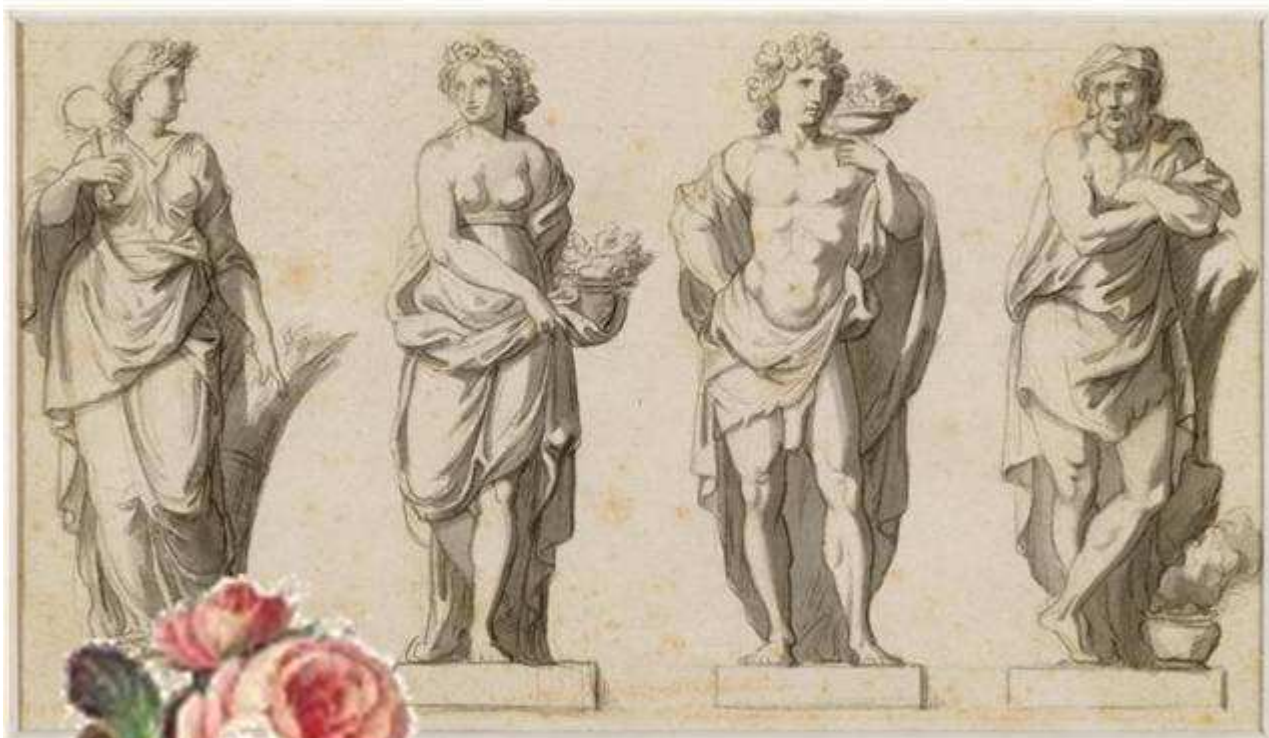

CHARPENTIER



FOUR SEASONS
PERFORMED BY
ENSEMBLE MARQUISE



MARC-ANTOINE
CHARPENTIER
FOUR SEASONS
& G.F.HANDEL
ARCADIAN DUETS



The concert programme is built around rare gems of baroque music:

Marc-Antoine Charpentier's four motets: the Four seasons
and George Frideric Handel's Arcadian Duets

which is a wonderful selection of Handel's Italian chamber duets.

The lyrics of the four motets are passages from the biblical Song of Songs, while the texts of the Arcadian duets portray the effects of love on the human life and soul. During the concert our Master of Ceremonies–Actor performs these sensual and passionate biblical texts together with poems from the 18th century. The concert evokes the atmosphere of the 17-18 century with period dress, scenic accessories, acting and narration to complement and dramatize the musical experience, and making the performance unforgettable and extremely enjoyable.

ENSEMBLE MARQUISE:

Judit Blaskovics-Felszeghy – coloratura soprano

László Blaskovics – male soprano

Dénes Kocsis – Master of Ceremonies

Márta Gál– harpsichord

Katalin Kállay – recorder

Ágnes Kállay– cello



Marc- Antoine Charpentier (1645–1704): Four Seasons (Quatuor anni tempestates) {H.335-338}

Ver (Spring)

Aestas (Summer)

Autumnus (Autumn)

Hyems (Winter)

Passages from the biblical Song of Songs are set by Charpentier in his four motets for two sopranos and continuo, Four Seasons. These motets were composed in 1685 for the Cistercian nuns of the Abbaye-aux-Bois; they are performed in order, in Latin, in alternation with other pieces of music for recorder. This type of work, in which two treble voices are like soaring twins, was so important in the Baroque period. These texts are symbolizing both the individual soul's union with Christ, and they are also powerful love poems between man and woman. Close imitation between two sopranos, virtuosic ornamented lines, expressive examples of word painting are characteristics of Italian rather than French writing.

George Frideric Handel (1685–1759): Arcadian Duets - a selection of Handel's Italian chamber duets

Quel fior che all' alba ride {HWV 192}

Nò, di voi non vo'fidarmi {HWV 189}

Ahi, nelle sorti umane {HWV 179}

Tanti strali il sen {HWV 197}

The Italian duets (so-called 'Arcadian duets') are secular cantatas da camera, performed in Italian by two sopranos, continuo and recorder. Handel wrote his twenty-one Italian duets, in Hanover in 1710-11, and in England in the 1740s, inspired by the arcadian academies. They are intended to be performed at private gatherings in wealthy homes. They are in two or in three movements with various characters and are filled with melodic inspiration and ingenious scene-painting. The entwined soaring voices portray the effects of love on the human soul. Handel reused the material of these duets in later work, including the famous choir parts of the Messiah.



Ensemble Marquise:

Ensemble Marquise presents early music concerts in full Baroque and Rococo costume on period instruments. The Ensemble was founded in 2004 by the soprano singer-couple, László Blaskovics and Judit Blaskovics-Felszeghy. Since that time we've been working and performing together with our professional musicians, so the ensemble is very much like a musical family. Our repertoire is very broad, from early Baroque composers right through to Mozart.

Since 2004 we have performed more than 100 amazing and unique concerts; we appeared in prestigious festivals, concert halls and castles in Hungary (Palace of Arts, Palace of Buda, Royal Palace of Gödöllő, Old Academy of Music, Marble Hall, Esterházy Castle in Pápa, Festetich, Pálffy and Wenckheim Palaces in Budapest, Kiscelli Museum, and many others, Valley of Arts Festival, Festival of Museums in Budapest, Baroque and Early Music Festivals in Győr, Nyirbátor, Kisvárd, Gödöllő, Water-Music-Flower Festival in Esterházy Castle in Tata) and throughout Europe e.g. Venice Carnival, chamber concerts in Vienna, Brockhall Spring Festival (UK), Brežice Early Music Festival (Slovenia), Varaždin Baroque Evenings (Croatia) and also in some of England's finest castles and country houses (Boughton House, Kimbolton Castle, Staunton Harold, Fawsley Hall, Cranford Hall, Aynhoe Park, Sulgrave Manor, Oxford-St.Michael's church). In Hungary we are the regular ensemble of the Baroque Theatre in Royal Palace of Gödöllő. Most of our concerts took place in castles or palaces; these wonderful settings help recalling the enchanting atmosphere of the era in which those gems of music were composed.

About Us:

In our concerts we perform arias and duets for two sopranos with baroque chamber accompaniment – harpsichord, cello and baroque recorder - and you can also hear instrumental pieces - solos and trios. The harmonic combination of a male soprano and a coloratura soprano voices provides a beautifully refined sound, and gives a unique musical experience. Our Master of Ceremonies introduces the pieces with poems and narrative texts, sets the scene and also takes part in the acting.

The Marquise programmes are built around varied themes, and each one has its own story. Our programmes are pasticcios, so that, gems of the baroque music “assembled” from works by different composers, loosely woven together to a story. We believe that the whole experience should combine visual, dramatic and musical elements. The concerts evoke the atmosphere of the 17-18 century with period dress, deportment and scenic accessories inspired by paintings of that era to complement and dramatize the musical experience.

Our aim is to bring the wonderful music and style of the Baroque era closer to the audience of the 21st century. To show an authentic picture, we’ve been studying the way of life in the 17-18 century, and our costumes were inspired, patterned and created after original paintings. We believe that though the world has changed a lot, the personal emotions and thoughts remained the same through centuries, so on the wings of the music they are enjoyable and perceivable today as well.

Members:

Judit Blaskovics-Felszeghy, coloratura soprano was trained in the Kodály-method in Budapest, she learned to play the piano and the recorder. She has sang in prominent youth choirs and was a soloist in small groups, always feeling most at home with mediaeval, renaissance, baroque and classical repertoire. In 2003, Judit graduated in singing at the Leo Weiner College of Music in Budapest with distinction. She studied with famous coloratura sopranos: Prof. Sylvia Geszty, Prof. Krisztina Laki and Prof. Csilla Ötvös in Vienna and in Budapest. Her special vocal talent is that she can sing extraordinarily fast, pearling coloraturas, which is particularly suitable for performing baroque arias which require virtuoso skills. Besides music she’s highly interested in linguistics, and in 2002 she graduated from ELTE University in Budapest where she studied Russian philology. With her husband, László Blaskovics, she founded Ensemble Marquise in 2004. They have been living in the United Kingdom since 2009, where Judit is the guest soloist of the English early music ensemble, Fiori Musicali and she teaches singing at the Northamptonshire Music Service in England.

Born in Budapest, **László Blaskovics** is one of the small company of male singers specialising in the soprano register. He studied with Prof. Sylvia Geszty, Prof. Krisztina Laki and Prof. Csilla Ötvös in Vienna and Budapest. In 2002, László won a special prize in the 8th „Sylvia Geszty” International Coloratura Singing Contest in 2002, in Murcia, Spain. His extraordinary voice is a curiosity, its exceptional range enabling him to perform the male soprano repertoire which was so popular during the baroque period. László is the leader, founder and designer of Ensemble Marquise. He designs the costumes, writes the narrative texts, plans the concert programmes and organizes the concerts. “Laszlo has an extraordinary soprano voice, evoking the authentic sound of baroque opera.” Since 2009 he is the guest soloist of the English early music ensemble, Fiori Musicali. Since 2011 he teaches singing at the Northamptonshire Music Service.

Katalin Kállay studied viola at the Leó Weiner Music College with Sándor Papp, and recorder with László Czidra, then she continued her studies as a musicologist at the Franz Liszt Academy of Music. In the meantime she studied early music and recorder with László Lőrincz at Szeged University. She has attended at master classes by Peter Holtslag, Prehoffer Gábor and Anneke Boeke. Katalin Kállay is a member of several early music ensembles such as Excanto, Camerata Hungarica, Sebastian Consort, Marquise, Musica Profana, Savaria Baroque Orchestra, Tercina, and she has performed as a guest musician in London, Innsbruck, Trier, Nicosia, Venice. She is a regular guest at prestigious international music festivals: Budapest Spring Festival, Gödöllő Spring Festival, Budapest Bach Week, Early Music Festival in Csíkszereda, Börzsöny Baroque Festival, Zemplén Festival, Valley of Arts Festival. She has given regular concerts in the most significant music halls of Budapest such as Big Concert Hall of Academy of Music, Old Academy of Music, Palace of Arts: Festival Theatre. Currently she teaches recorder and chamber music at the Leó Weiner Music College and gives master classes at the Renaissance and Baroque Week in Győr. She also writes music reviews and concert guides for the Palace of Arts, the Muzsika and the Műpamagazine.

Ágnes Kállay started playing the violoncello at the age of six. She graduated at the Franz Liszt Academy of Music, Budapest in 2006. She earned DAAD scholarship and studied under Maria Kliegel at the Hochschule für Musik in Cologne, Germany. In 2008 she received a TA scholarship at Montclair State University (USA), and continued her studies with Nick Tzavaras and the Shanghai Quartet. From the Spring semester of 2011 she is going to complete her doctoral studies with Colin Carr at Stony Brook University (USA). In 2004 she won the Alpe Adria International Violoncello Competition in Gorizia, Italy. In 2007 she placed first at the Beethoven Chamber Music Competition, London, UK. In 2010 she was selected among the best 13 cellist at the 5th Unisa International String competition in South Africa. She participated in the master courses of Ralph Kirshbaum, Tsuyoshi Tsutsumi, Philippe Muller, Guido Schiefen, Alberto Portugheis, Martin Lovett, Déri György and Gulyás Márta. In 2010 she was invited to the Tanglewood Summer Music Festival, where she had the chance to work with Joel Krosnick, Emanuel Ax, Steven Ansell, Norman Fischer, Pieter Wispelwey, Rafael Frühbeck de Burgos, Michael Tilson Thomas, Herbert Blomstedt, Stefan Asbury, Robert Spano and John Williams. She plays the baroque cello as well, she is a member of several early music ensembles such as Excanto, Camerata Hungarica and she is a permanent guest of Mandel Quartet.

The pianist and harpsichordist **Márta Gál** graduated from the Liszt Ferenc Academy of Music in Budapest, and then studied chamber music and song accompaniment at the Franz Liszt Hochschule, Weimar. She has been teaching at the Franz Liszt Academy of Music in Budapest since 1975. She teaches at the Csepel Music Conservatory and at Continuo music school as well. She acquired her mastery of the historically authentic performance of early music at the harpsichord and fortepiano master classes of Kenneth Gilbert and Jos van Immerseel in Antwerp. Márta Gál is a member of several chamber ensembles such as Marquise, Capella Savaria, Instrumenta Historica, and also works with Ensemble Grazioso. She has worked for many years as an accompanist in Hungarian and international competitions and master classes, e.g. in Weimar Master Classes.

The young actor and musical singer, **Dénes Kocsis** acts in the Operetta and Musical Theater in Budapest, and in the National Theater in Pécs. He is currently performing Rudolf in musical Rudolf, Melchior in Spring Awakening, he understudies Chris in Miss Saigon and Romeo in Romeo and Juliet. He appears also in the Ensemble of the Operetta and Musical Theater in Budapest in many pieces. In the years of his drama studies, he acted Joe and Nick in Fame; Maugli and Sir Kan in Jungle Book; Kenicky in Grease and Georg in Spring Awakening. On the screen he appeared in TV series, films and talent shows, such as the Hungarian X-factor, Csillag Születik – ‘Hungary’s Got

Talent' and Megastar. Dénes is the Master of Ceremonies-Actor of Ensemble Marquise since 2005. He acted in several baroque drama pieces on stage like Master Pathelin and La Fontaine Tales.

About Design:

The poster is designed by László Blaskovics after a drawing by Charles Le Brun: The Four seasons
Charles Le Brun was a contemporary of Marc-Antoine Charpentier at the French court.



www.marquise.hu