



The Secret Language of The Fans

The Marquise Ensemble presents you with a programme, which reveals the secret forgotten language of fans along with music, poems, acting and love. The music programme includes composers such as: Handel, Monteverdi, Couperin, Bach, Vivaldi and other famous composers. In the Baroque era, the fan became an ideal instrument of communication in an age on which freedom of speech for women was restricted. The main gestures and their respective meanings that together made up what was known as “the language of the fan”. It was seen especially in the Spanish, French and English courts where it became very common.

Here are a few examples:

To hold the fan with the right hand in front of the face= Follow me.

To move it with the left hand = They are watching us.

To hold it closed = Do you love me?

