

# ***The English Orpheus***

Recording project

**Henry Purcell**

Solo songs



**Anna Dennis** *soprano*

**Julian Perkins** *harpsichord, spinet and chamber organ*

**James Akers** *theorbo and archlute*

**Henrik Persson** *bass viol and bass violin*

**Henry Purcell** remains unequalled in the sensitivity with which he sets the English language. His music often combines the decorum of the French style with the rhetorical exuberance of the Italian style – while remaining quintessentially English. *The English Orpheus* celebrates Purcell's florid qualities with a surprising array of vocal and instrumental works, many of which are unknown.

**Since its creation by Director Julian Perkins in 2005, SOUNDS BAROQUE** has devoted itself to conveying to audiences the thrilling theatricality and intense passion of the music of the 17th and 18th centuries. The group comprises some of the finest baroque instrumentalists of our times, has collaborated with many eminent singers and actors, including Dame Emma Kirkby, Simon Callow, Peter Capaldi, Timothy West and David Wilson-Johnson, as well as an illustrious array of younger stars, including Anna Dennis, Ashley Riches, Anna Starushkevych and William Towers.

**Sounds Baroque** is heard regularly on BBC Radio 3 and has appeared at London's Southbank Centre and Kings Place and at international festivals in Cheltenham, London, Ryedale, Tel Aviv, Two Moors (Devon) and York. The group's opera pasticcio about Casanova is garnering much interest and, beyond the baroque, **Sounds Baroque** has given world premières of works by Paul Ayres, Stephen Dodgson and Iain Farrington, and often undertakes educational projects and engages in pre-performance conversations in conjunction with its performances. They have so far recorded two acclaimed discs of Italian cantatas for Avie Records, and are planning to record a programme of rare Purcell songs with the acclaimed soprano Anna Dennis, who has appeared as a soloist at La Scala.

## Programme

Sweeter than roses On the brow of Richmond Hill Cupid, the slyest rogue alive She loves and she confesses too	Henry Purcell (1659–1695)
Suite in C major	Francesco Corbetta (c1615–1681)
No Reprieve A Lover's Legacy	Henry Lawes (1595–1662)
Urge me no more O solitude In the black, dismal dungeon of despair	H. Purcell
Harpsichord suite no. 1 in C minor	Giovanni Battista Draghi (c1640–1708)
Love arms himself in Celia's eyes Celia's fond Oh! fair Cedaria	H. Purcell
How blessed are shepherds	

**Sounds Baroque** will be performing this programme with Anna Dennis at St John's, Smith Square on January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2018. There is then a plan to record it for Resonus Classics.

So as to make a recording at the highest level, the costs of this project will amount to £8,500 (please see below). In order to help cover these costs, we are inviting organizations and individuals to subscribe to this exciting project. From £40, subscribers can have their name inscribed in the CD booklet and receive a complimentary copy of the disc. There may also be the opportunity to receive complimentary tickets to our concert at St John's, Smith Square and have a private house concert.

## Costings

Venue hire and accommodation	£2,500
Performers x 4	£3,800
Instrument hire and music	£800
Keyboard technician and tuner	£1,000
Printing costs	£400
<b>Total</b>	<b>£8,500</b>

**To subscribe**, cheques can be addressed to Julian Perkins and sent to 35 Matham Grove, London, SE22 8PN, or sent online:

Name: JSC PERKINS  
Sort Code: 20-66-51  
Account Number: 20316563

Please do let us know if you would like to find out anything more about this project. Programme notes are available on request.

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