

Dr. Andrew Flory

Solo Theorbo Concert Proposal

Contact: booking@andrewfloryguitar.com

www.andrewfloryguitar.com



Giant of the Baroque

A chronological evolution of solo theorbo works by
Alessandro Piccinini, Giovanni Girolamo Kapsberger,
and Robert de Visée

Program

Toccata Cromatica

Alessandro Piccinini (1566-1638)

Toccata VI

Toccata Arpeggiata

Giovanni Girolamo Kapsberger (1580-1651)

Bergamasca

Kapsberger

Canario

Suite in A minor

Robert de Visée (1655-1732/1733)

Prelude

Allemande

Courante

Sarabande

Gavotte

La Mascarade

Chaconne

Les Sylvains de Mr. Couperin par Mr. de Visée

Robert de Visée (1655-1732/1733)

Suite in G Major

Robert de Visée (1655-1732/1733)

La Muzette

Chaconne

Media

La Muzette from Suite in G Major by Robert de Visée:



Tocatta Arpeggiata by GG Kapsberger:



Prelude from Suite in A Minor by Robert de Visée:



Program Notes

The theorbo is the largest of the lute family of instruments and was developed in the very late 16th century in Florence, Italy. A giant in size and sound, the theorbo quickly gained popularity as an accompaniment instrument where it excelled playing continuo in the earliest of operas and for chamber groups and solo voice. Throughout the entirety of the baroque era, the theorbo flourished in its accompanying role but a mere sliver of solo works for the instrument survive when compared to what can be played on the instrument for accompanying purposes. However, there are three composers that stand out in their quality of solo music for the instrument and in the amount of their solo theorbo works that survive. Those three composers are Alessandro Piccinini (1566-1638), Giovanni Girolamo Kapsberger (1580-1651), and Robert de Visée (1655-1732/1733).

The Piccinini and Kapsberger works in this program exemplify the early 17th century Italian style through their florid toccatas and lively dances such as the canario and bergamasca. The Bergamasca, Kapsberger, and Canario by GG Kapsberger are all examples of a “ground” which is a set of variations over a repeating bass and harmonic pattern. Grounds were very popular in their day and were often improvised.

The evolution of solo theorbo music is demonstrated in the Robert de Visée works featured in this program. De Visée was a French composer of the late 17th century into the early 18th century. He was a court musician for Louis XIV and wrote in the typical French dance suite style that is more familiar today than the dances found in Piccinini and Kapsberger works. I find de Visée’s works to be some of the finest solo theorbo works and I am so pleased to be able to share these with you today.

Bio

Dr. Andrew Flory is a classical guitarist, theorbo player, lutenist, and educator based in Rochester, New York. In 2024, Andrew received his Doctor of Musical Arts in Classical Guitar Performance, Advanced Performer’s Certificate in Early Music, and Performer’s Certificate in Classical Guitar from the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, New York. As a multi-instrumentalist and Early music specialist, Andrew captivates audiences around the world with his colorful and nuanced musicality in his repertoire that spans over 500 years across many instruments. Along with his solo career, Andrew is a veteran continuo player with the Collegium Musicum Baroque orchestra and was a member of the Schola Cantorum at Christ Church in Rochester.

Notable recent performances include a concert and Baroque Performance Practice and guitar lectures for the University of Arkansas, a concert and masterclass for the Connecticut Guitar Guild, concerts for the Great Lakes Guitar Society, Rochester Guitar Festival 2022, Rochester Fringe Festival 2021 and 2022, RCS Big Guitar Weekend Student and Alumni showcase 2022, Christ Church Candlelight Concert 2023, MUSIC at St. Mark’s 2022 and 2023, and many performances with Collegium Musicum and Schola Cantorum featuring music by Monteverdi, Purcell, Palestrina, and more.

For his “musical excellence” and “outstanding academic record”, Andrew was inducted into the Pi Kappa Lambda Music Honor Society in 2023. At Eastman, Andrew studied guitar with Naxos recording artist Nicholas Goluses and he studied lute and theorbo with world renowned lutenist and pedagogue Paul O’Dette. Andrew received his Master of Music degree from the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland in 2020 under the direction of Allan Neave and Matthew McAllister. It was at RCS where Andrew began his lute and theorbo studies with Jamie Akers. He received his Bachelor of Music degree from the University of Arkansas in 2015 where he studied with Dr. James Greeson.

Andrew’s theorbo is a reproduction of a 17th century Schelle theorbo which was built by Daniel Yost of Buffalo, New York. Andrew plays a 2016 Stephan Connor guitar.