

Andrew Flory

Theorbo and Classical Guitar Concert Proposal

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Fourteen & Six

A concert featuring the theorbo and classical guitar

Program

Toccata Cromatica

Alessandro Piccinini (1566-1638)

Toccata VI

Bergamasca

Giovanni Girolamo Kapsberger (1580-1651)

Kapsberger

Canario

Suite in A minor

Robert de Visée (1655-1732/1733)

Prelude

Allemande

Sarabande

Courante

Gavotte

La Mascarade

Chaconne

Variations Mignonne – from *Bardenklänge*, Op. 13

Johann Kaspar Mertz (1806-1856)

Western Vista

Olga Amelkina-Vera

Collage

Patrick Kearney (1970-

OPHELIA...a haunted sonata

Phillip Houghton (1954-2017)

Fear...and the angel

Suffering and madness...am I but a dream of a shadow?

Chant...of the flower-moon

Water...memories – hall of ghosts – wash away

Death...with moons in your hair

More on next page: ↓↓

Media

La Muzette by Robert de Visée:



Toccata Arpeggiata by GG Kapsberger:



Western Vista by Olga Amelkina-Vera:



Le Gondolier by Johann Kaspar Mertz:



Program Notes

This program features solo works for theorbo and classical guitar. The title “Fourteen & Six” is in reference to the fourteen strings of the theorbo and the six strings of the classical guitar.

The theorbo is the largest of the lute family of instruments and was developed in the very late 16th century in Florence, Italy. A behemoth 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) and they are featured in today’s program.

The guitar works in this program feature the Viennese Romantic composer Johann Kaspar Mertz and two contemporary composers, Patrick Kearney and Phillip Houghton. Two of the three selected Mertz pieces are from his *Bardenklänge, Op. 13* which was a collection of pieces based on folk and popular songs of 19th century Vienna. This collection is also his largest collection of works. *Collage* is by the Canadian composer Patrick Kearney and features a strong melodic opening, a mysterious middle section laden with dissonance, and a rousing finish. The final work is *OPHELIA...a haunted sonata* by the late Australian composer Phillip Houghton. This piece is centered around the tragic Shakespearean character Ophelia from the play Hamlet. Her descent into madness and her untimely death is outlined in the titles of the movements of the piece. Musically, Houghton employs an altered tuning of the guitar to create a dark sonority that complements the somber nature of the piece. I find this piece to be one of my favorites to perform as it is incredibly captivating and strongly tugs at one’s heartstrings.

Bio

Andrew Flory is a classical guitarist and theorbo player based in Rochester, New York. He is currently a Doctoral Candidate and Performer’s Certificate recipient at the Eastman School of Music in Rochester. There he studies guitar with Naxos recording artist Dr. Nicholas Goluses and is also pursuing an Advanced Performer’s certificate in Early Music with world renowned lutenist and historical performance practice expert Paul O’Dette. In addition to guitar performances, Andrew plays theorbo as a member of the Collegium Musicum Baroque orchestra led by Paul O’Dette and Christel Thielmann and he performs every Sunday night at Christ Church in Rochester with Schola Cantorum for their candlelight compline service. Andrew also performs solo theorbo works in his solo performances.

For his “musical excellence” and “outstanding academic record”, Andrew was inducted into the Pi Kappa Lambda Music Honor Society in 2023. Notable recent performances include 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, Purcell's *The Fairy Queen* and *King Arthur* with Collegium Musicum 2022 and 2023 respectively.

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.