

CLASSICAL

La Reveuse

London circa 1760 (Harmonia Mundi)

Early music **ensemble La Reveuse** whisks listeners to London circa 1760 with its latest release in an ongoing series dedicated to British music.

Baroque music buffs will enjoy such highlights as C. F. Abel's *Concerto a Viola da Gamba Concertata*, with the reconstructed version immediately showcasing the sensitive artistry of viola da gamba player Florence Bolton.

Another is J. C. Bach's *Quartet, op. 8, No. 2*, or Francesco Geminiani's *Pieces for English Guitar in D minor*, its filigree ornamentation brought to life by the group's co-founder with Bolton, lutenist/theorbist Benjamin Perrot. Of particular note is its second piece, *No. 2 Affettuso*, with its delicate polyphonic lines interwoven like fine brocade tapestry.

Also included are two excerpts from Abel's *27 Pieces for Bass Viol*, arranged by Perrot, *No. 26, Adagio in D minor*, and *No. 24, Allegro in D minor*, as well as Rudolf Straube's highly introspective *Largo* from *Sonata in C major, No. 1*.

However the album's sweet spot comes with 18th century concert impresario and reputedly "femme fatale" Ann Ford's *Instructions for Playing on the Musical Glasses*, its two movements, *Italian Air* and *Duetto*, featuring player Sylvain Lemêtre, charming modern day ears just as it would have when first penned for London's upper crust, chamber music loving society.

Stream: *Pieces for English Guitar in D minor, Affettuso; Sonata in C major, No. 1, Largo; Instructions for Playing on the Musical Glasses, Italian Air*

- Holly Harris

HHHH out of five

Winnipeg Free Press

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Friday, August 22, 2025 1161 words, p. C2

album reviews