

PRIMA CLASSIC PRESENTS

MUSICAL WANDERLUST



APOLLO'S CABINET

★
Charles Burney's European
Travels in Pursuit of Harmony

Alexander Armstrong, Narrator

PRIMA
CLASSIC

A FEAST FOR THE SENSES

TAKE THE GRAND TOUR BACK TO THE 18TH CENTURY

"In hopes of stamping on my intended History some marks of originality or at least of novelty, I determined to allay my thirst of knowledge at the source and to hear with my own ears and see with my own eyes, and, if possible, to hear and see nothing but music".

—Charles Burney

First Single Release on November 17th, 2023

Digital Release

UPC 197190049640 (English)

UPC 197190132731 (German)

The Orchard Distribution
www.theorchard.com

Catalog

PRIMA036EN (English narration)

PRIMA036DE (German narrartion)

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MUSICAL WANDERLUST

Charles Burney's

EUROPEAN TRAVELS IN PURSUIT OF HARMONY

Charles Burney, born April 7, 1726 in Shropshire and died April 12, 1814 in Chelsea, was an organist, composer, and the foremost music historian of his time in England.

After studying the violin and organ as a boy, when he turned 18 years old, he started a musical apprenticeship with composer Thomas Arne at Drury Lane theatre in London where he later collaborated with playwright and director David Garrick.

He married twice and had eight children, one of them being novelist Frances Burney and another explorer James Burney who travelled with Captain Cook.

During his life he worked as a music teacher, performer and composer before dedicating the majority of his time and efforts to music history.

In recognition of these historical contributions, he was appointed a fellow of the Royal Society and received a DMus from Oxford University.

Until 1776, no written history of music existed in the English language. To equip himself to fill this gap, Burney set off on two long journeys in 1770 and 1772, to Italy, France, Germany, Bohemia (Czechia), Austria, Belgium and the Netherlands. He investigated libraries and archives, spoke to personalities in the musical world, attended musical events, and subsequently published accounts of both tours.

His journey begins with the following words:

"In hopes of stamping on my intended History some marks of originality or at least of novelty, I determined to allay my thirst of knowledge at the

source and to hear with my own ears and see with my own eyes, and, if possible, to hear and see nothing but music. Indeed I might have amused myself agreeably enough in examining pictures, statues, and buildings, but as I could not afford time for all this, without neglecting the chief business of my journey, I determined not to have "my purpose turned awry" by any other curiosity or inquiry. With these views I left London in the beginning of June 1770."

This album presents a kaleidoscope of European music from the 17th and 18th centuries from every country Burney visited during his two journeys. Inspired by Burney's exploratory and individual spirit, we have continued his thoughts and added our own "marks of originality and novelty" to the pieces of music.

Excerpts have been selected from his diaries to illustrate the locations he visited. These have been edited only slightly, to aid a modern reader's understanding or to be concise enough to fit on this album. The full text is well worth reading, very entertaining and can be found in his two travel diaries: 'The present state of music in France and Italy' (part 1) and 'The present state of music in Germany, the Netherlands and United Provinces' (part 2), or, 'the journal of a tour through those countries, undertaken to collect materials for a general history of music'.

MUSICAL WANDERLUST

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- 33 The Despairing Shepherd: The sun was sunk beneath the hills
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APOLLO'S CABINET

About us

"Sensitive, joyous, highly virtuosic, and with a great choice of sound colours" - Kulturzeitschrift

"Baroque meets Bridgerton" - Göttinger Tagblatt

"Arguably the most functional cabinet in the country" - Anonymous source

Murders, drinking songs, Cinderella stories, virtuosic cantatas, European tours, serene polyphony and candlelit rituals all feature in the evocative and story driven programmes of Apollo's Cabinet. Winners of the Göttingen Händel Competition and the Maurizio Pratola competition in 2022, the group bring a signature mix of acting, dancing, poetry and silliness to bring historical performance to modern audiences. They have furthermore won the Brian Nisbet Prize for their fusion of Music and Poetry and most recently the F. J. Aumann Prize of the International Biber Competition for innovation and new discoveries in Baroque music.

Recently completing a tour of Scotland generously supported by the Tunnell Trust, the group has performed across the UK and Europe including the London Handel Festival, Felix! Festival Köln, The Georgian Concert Society Edinburgh, :alpenarte Schwarzenberg and the Brighton Early Music Festival.

"Apollo's Cabinet are adding storylines and scenarios to illuminate already dramatic music, while erasing the interactive gap between stage and audience". - Bognor Regis Observer

The ensemble is dedicated to educational outreach for children as well as adults, and members have designed and offered workshops and educational concerts in collaboration with the Royal Opera House, Centre for Young Musicians, Brighton Early Music Festival, English National Opera and Wigmore Hall.

This season, Apollo's Cabinet will be performing their Charles Burney programme at Vienna Konzerthaus, Montafoner Resonanzen and AMUZ Antwerpen, amongst others.

Their latest show was a new interactive musical theatre production about the cold case of Jean-Marie Leclair's murder, generously supported by Continuo Foundation and Angel Early music and their next CD will showcase the life of soprano and actor Kitty Clive, star of the London theatre stage during the 18th century, which will be released next year.



Alexander Armstrong (English version)



Juergen Maurer (German version)

MUSICAL WANDERLUST

Credits

APOLLO'S CABINET ARE:

Ella Bodeker - Soprano

Jonatan Bougt - Theorbo, Baroque Guitar

Harry Buckoke - Viola da Gamba

Thomas Pickering - Harpsichord, Recorder, Traverso

Daniel Watt - Percussion

Teresa Wrann - Recorder

Guest: **Sophia Prodanova** - Violin

Narration:

Alexander Armstrong (English version album)

Juergen Maurer (German version album)

Recording: 15th -17th February 2023,
at the Church of the Ascension, Plumstead, London
by Chiaro Audio

Producer: Dr. Emily Baines

Recording Engineer: Dr. John Croft

Booklet Text: Teresa Wrann

Booklet Text Editing: David Pickering, Harry Buckoke

Photography: Joshua Firsht, Daniel Stettler, Abraham Buckoke

Booklet design: Romina Pacor

Cover design: Agustín Staffieri

Executive co-producers: Apollo's Cabinet and Prima Classic

Catalog number:

PRIMA036EN (English version album)

PRIMA036DE (German version album)

Available in Hi-Res Audio (96/24),
Apple Digital Master, Amazon Ultimate HD, and Dolby ATMOS

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NEW MUSIC + NEW ARTISTS + EXTRAORDINARY PERFORMANCES

*Our mission is to produce beautiful music performed by accomplished artists,
and deliver it to the widest possible audience.*

*From the dramatic heights of 19th-century opera
to the intimate sound of a Spanish guitar piece composed today,
at **Prima Classic** we strive to guarantee recordings of the finest musical quality.*

The Healing Power of Music

Backed by multiple scientific studies from around the world, we believe in the healing power of human interactions through music, especially in these times of stress and isolation.

Top-tier musicians

We carefully choose our artists from the academic, classical, and popular music scenes. These are well-established musicians with a solid background in their instruments and years of experience as performers, educators, composers, and musicologists. Some of them are world-famous stars.

From centuries-old pieces to original compositions, our artists deliver their unique approach to music, be that in the style of relaxation and calming music, or in the performance of heart-wrenching dramatic pieces of the *bel canto* operatic repertoire.

Real instruments

We believe in the unique energy of the sounds that come from real instruments produced with the hands of human beings. Our choice of instruments is varied, ranging from grand pianos to different acoustic guitars (some of them unique in the world), from harps to Kokle (ancient Latvian table harp), and from Bendir (ancient hand frame drum) to Handpan (tonal drum invented in the 2000s), and others, both traditional and less known acoustic instruments.

Hi-res from inception

All of our albums are recorded at 96k/32-bit floating (reduced to 24 bits at Mastering) using the highest quality audio equipment to date. All our recordings are available in Hi-Resolution (Studio Quality 96/24), Apple Digital Masters, and all our new releases are also available on Dolby ATMOS.