

PRIMA CLASSIC PRESENTS



The Comic Muse: A Celebration of 18th-Century Theatrical Brilliance

"The Comic Muse" delves into the vibrant and often overlooked world of 18th-century theatre, celebrating the extraordinary talent and influence of Kitty Clive.

This album pays homage to a time when music, drama, and comedy intertwined, captivating audiences with their wit, emotion, and virtuosity.

Through this collection of performances, we invite you to experience the timeless allure of this golden age of theater.

First single out on February 21st , 2025

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The Orchard Distribution
www.theorchard.com

Catalog PRIMA066

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TRACKLIST

George Frideric Handel

Rinaldo, HWV7: Overture

1. Largo
2. Allegro
3. Adagio
4. Gigue

Thomas Arne

5. The Card Invites

Matthew Dubourg

6. Dubourg's Maggot*

James Oswald

7. Nannicock, my poor cow (to the tune of 'Greensleeves')

Alessandro Scarlatti

8. Minuet in Demetrius*

George Frideric Handel

9. Air in Justin *

10. Was ever a man possest (after 'No, Non Temere O Bella' from Ottone, HWV 15)

11. Carillon *

Johann Christoph Pepusch

Cantata 'When Love's Soft Passion':

12. Recit. - When love's soft passion

13. Aria - O love, thou know'st my anguish

14. Recit. - The god of love

15. Aria - Why should I love the fair that flies me

George Frideric Handel

16. Air in Berenice *

Thomas Arne

17. Where the bee sucks

Robert Woodcock

18. Concerto No. 4: III. Gavotta

Francesco Geminiani

19. Sonata No. 2 'Bush aboon Traquair': I. Andante

Johann Christoph Pepusch

20. The crow or daw. To the tune of Bush aboon Traquair
Francesco Geminiani

21. Sonata No. 2 'Bush aboon Traquair': II. Allegro

George Frideric Handel

22. Air in Lothario*

Robert Woodcock

23. Concerto No. 6: III. Gavotta

Anonymous

24. Strawberry Hill

George Frideric Handel

25. L'Allegro, il Penseroso ed il Moderato: Haste thee Nymph

All works arranged by Apollo's Cabinet, except when noted

*arranged by John Walsh

Kitty Clive, a captivating figure of 18th-century London theater, was renowned for her versatility, wit, and powerful voice. This recording delves into her world, exploring the diverse musical landscape that shaped her performances.

From the lively instrumental interludes of spoken plays to the soaring arias of Handel's operas, Clive's artistry transcended boundaries. Her ability to seamlessly transition between dramatic and comedic roles, often incorporating improvised elements, captivated audiences and solidified her status as a theatrical icon.

Through a selection of works by composers such as Robert Woodcock, Johann Christoph Pepusch, Thomas Arne, and George Frideric Handel, this album offers a glimpse into the vibrant musical culture of the era. It celebrates Clive's enduring legacy and the rich tapestry of sound that enriched the London stage during her time.

APOLLO'S CABINET

Thrilling audiences with a blend of music, drama, and storytelling, Apollo's Cabinet brings Early Music to life. Winners of numerous international competitions, they weave together murders, drinking songs, and Cinderella stories into evocative performances.

Their signature style combines acting, dance, poetry, and drama, making historical music accessible and engaging for modern audiences. From prestigious venues like the London Handel Festival to international tours, Apollo's Cabinet captivates across Europe.

Dedicated to education, the ensemble offers workshops and concerts for children and adults, collaborating with renowned institutions like the Royal Opera House and English National Opera.

Get ready for their **upcoming season, including recordings and a new composition!**

www.apolloscabinet.com



MALACHY FRAME

Belfast-born baritone Malachy Frame is making waves in the opera world. Recognized as a Rising Star of the Enlightenment with the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment, he has also been honored as Northern Ireland Opera's 'Voice of 2016.'

His repertoire spans a wide range of roles, from comic characters like Figaro in Rossini's *Il barbiere di Siviglia* to dramatic figures like Aeneas in Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas*. He has graced prestigious stages, performing at the Wigmore Hall, the Barbican, and the Laeiszhalle in Hamburg.

Frame's concert work is equally impressive, with performances of major choral works by Bach, Handel, and Britten. His rich, expressive voice and commanding stage presence have captivated audiences worldwide.



ELLA BODEKER

British New Zealand soprano Ella Bodeker is a talented vocalist with a passion for early music. She honed her skills at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama under the tutelage of Sarah Pring.

Her diverse repertoire includes iconic roles like The Queen of the Night and Dido, as well as lesser-known gems from Purcell and Monteverdi. Bodeker has collaborated with renowned artists such as Dame Emma Kirkby and Alison Balsom.

Beyond the stage, she has made significant contributions to the world of early music. Her recent work on Handel's cantata "Mi Palipta il Cor" involved leading the design, vocal editing, and recording of excerpts.

Bodeker's dedication to her craft, coupled with her impressive vocal abilities, positions her as a promising talent in the classical music scene.



CREDITS

Executive Producers: Apollo's Cabinet and Prima Classic

Recording: 22nd - 25th August 2023, All Saints Church, Didcot, England

Producer: Dr. Emily Baines

Recording Engineer: Dr. John Croft

Booklet Text: Olwen Foulkes

Booklet Text Editing: David Pickering, Teresa Wrann

Cover Illustration: Gisela Gayleard

Photography: Abraham Buckoke

Booklet design: Romina Pacor

Apollo's Cabinet

Jonatan Bougt - Theorbo, Baroque Guitar

Harry Buckoke - Viola da Gamba

Thomas Pickering - Harpsichord, Traverso, Recorder

Teresa Wrann - Recorder

Guests

Ella Bodeker - Soprano

Malachy Frame - Baritone

Pretty Little Lyres - Apollo's Community Choir

Mark Bodeker

Pippa Bodeker

Lucy Browne

Kath Butler

Helen Harding

Jess Lewis

Heather White

Valerie Worrail



Instruments and Makers:

Theorbo: 14-course theorbo (2019): Lars Jönsson

Baroque guitar: 5-course Baroque Guitar after Verboam (2019):

Martin Haycock

Viola da Gamba: Wang Zhiming

Denner Sopranino in Boxwood: Bodil Diesen

Stanesby Soprano in Boxwood: Luca de Paolis

Stanesby Sixth Flute in Boxwood: Bodil Diesen

Bressan G Alto in Boxwood: Joel Meyer

Bressan F Alto in Boxwood: Ernst Meyer

Bressan Voice Flute in Boxwood: Luca de Paolis

Bressan Fourth Flute in Boxwood: Luca de Paolis

Bressan G Alto in Boxwood: Joachim Rohmer

Bressan Fourth Flute in Boxwood: Tim Cranmore

Bressan Voice Flute in Boxwood: Luca de Paolis

Denner F Alto in Boxwood: Stephan Blezinger

Denner Sopranino in Boxwood: Bodil Diesen

Buffardin Baroque Traverso: Martin Wenner

Ruckers Flemish double manual harpsichord: Ducornet and Greenhalgh

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