



**Laila Cathleen Neuman**

Laila Cathleen Neuman graduated cum laude at the Conservatorio G. Verdi in Milan with Margaret Hayward, and obtained her master's degree in Lied and Oratorio with honors at the Mozarteum in Salzburg, studying with Breda Zakotnik and Barbara Bonney. After her debut as Second woman in Purcell's 'Dido and Aeneas' in Milan, she sang the leading role as Melpomene in 'Il Parnaso Confuso', and the role of Atalanta in 'La Corona', both by Gluck, in productions of the Mozart Opern Institut Salzburg, directed by Josef Wallnig in Salzburg and Vienna, and in an 'Akademidt' production in Aarhus and Copenhagen. This September she sang the leading role in 'Didone Abbandonata' by domenico Sarri in Poland and the Czech Republic. Recent international concerts in the oratorio repertoire include Bach's Weihnachts Oratorium, Johannes Passion, Matthäus Passion, the Stabat Mater by L. Boccherini and G.B. Pergolesi. Her interest in the melodrama, baroque dance and especially historical gesture, for which she has been working with Margit Legler and Reinhold Kubik, have brought her to historical baroque theaters such as Cesky Krumlov, Drottningholm theater, Valtice Chateau theater, and festivals including the Utrecht Early music Festival and Concensus Moraviae Festival.



**Jean-Sébastien Beauvais**

Singer, organist and conductor, his vocal repertoire extends from Baroque oratorio and opera to Contemporary music. He has graduated from the Centre de Musique Baroque de Versailles and holds a Masters in Classical Singing from the Amsterdam Conservatory and from the Dutch National Opera Academy, directed by Alexander Oliver. He performs in prestigious venues such as the Concertgebouw (Amsterdam), Theatre des Champs Elysée (Paris), Toulouse les Orgues (France), Utrecht's Early Music festival (The Netherlands). He is frequently invited to perform as a guest soloist with international ensembles and orchestras including the Helsinki Baroque Orchestra (Aapo Häkkinen), The Netherlands Bach Society (Jos van Veldhoven), Opera Fuoco (David Stern), Currende (Paul van Nevel), Le Concert Spirituel (Hervé Niquet), le Poème Harmonique (Vincent Dumestre) and Esmera Duo with the Latvian organist Una Cintina, specialized in New Music.

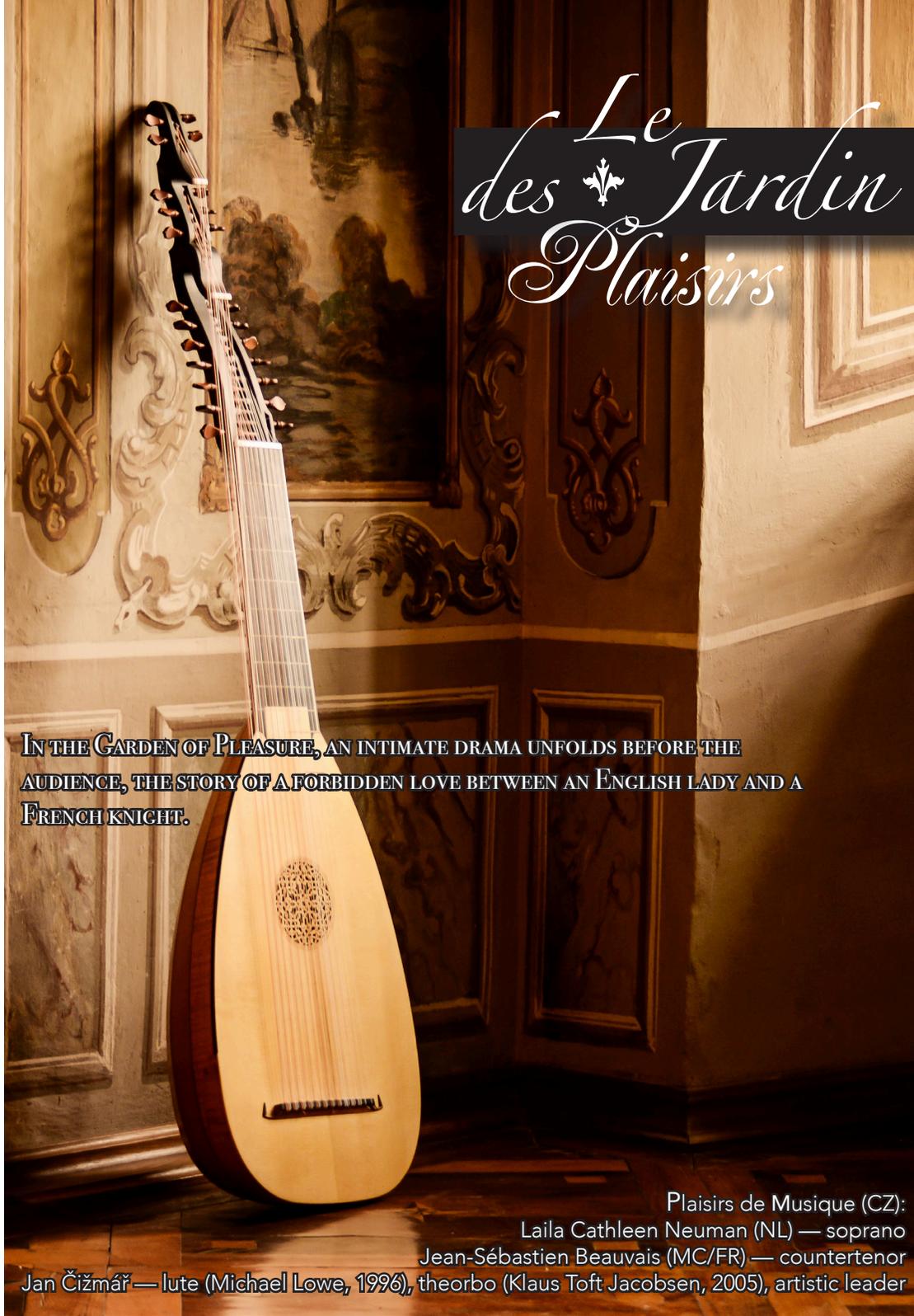


**Jan Čizmář**

Versatile performer focusing on historical plucked instruments, he performs regularly in Europe, Asia and the USA with ensembles such as the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment, the Orchestra of the Eighteenth Century, the Rotterdam Philharmonic Orchestra and Capella Cracoviensis, and under conductors such as Frans Brüggen, Christopher Hogwood, Giovanni Antonini, Yannick Nézet-Séguin and Christina Pluhar. He studied at the Royal College of Music in London in the class of Jakob Lindberg and at the

Royal Conservatory of The Hague with the teachers Nigel North, Joachim Held and Mike Fentross. He was the founder and editor of the Czech guitar magazine Kytara and contributes regularly to other musical periodicals alongside of his research and publishing activities. Jan Čizmář is currently teaching at the Janáček Academy of Music and Performing Arts in Brno and at the Academy of Ancient Music at Masaryk University in Brno. He regularly gives courses and masterclasses in Europe and overseas.

# Le Jardin des Plaisirs



**IN THE GARDEN OF PLEASURE, AN INTIMATE DRAMA UNFOLDS BEFORE THE AUDIENCE, THE STORY OF A FORBIDDEN LOVE BETWEEN AN ENGLISH LADY AND A FRENCH KNIGHT.**

## Synopsis

Two separated lovers, the French Chevalier de Tourville and his beloved Lady Lavinia Hawthorn from England, are tormented by ubiquitous war and their family duties.

For several years they communicate with each other through letters, their love still burning so strongly that it becomes an eyesore for the father of the young count. His parents' wishes and his impending military duty force the young count to resign his affections and never see his beloved again.

The beautiful and cunning Lady Lavinia does not resolve to this fate and takes the decision to travel to France alone. Her arrival is accompanied by the amorous song of the nightingale, and after spending a few days in his castle, she finds her lover asleep in the garden.

Will love triumph over duty? Will their families agree to their union? Will the kiss they have longed for so much in secret ever come?

Musically the programme is a free choice of songs and texts from the pens of English and French authors of the late 17th and early 18th centuries (the story is set in 1697). Occasional deviations (such as Flow my tears from 1600) are inspired only by the desire to enrich the programme with the most appropriate emotion.



## Program presentation

### Cabinet scene

- ♣ **Joseph Chabanceau de la Barre** (1633 – 1678) "**Si c'est un bien que l'espérance**"  
(Airs à deux parties, avec les seconds couplets en diminution, Paris 1669)
- ♣ **Henry VIII** (1491 – 1547) "**My Mistress and my friend**" (from a letter to Anne Boleyn)
- ♣ **Henry Purcell** (1659 – 1695) "**Ah! how sweet it is to love**" (from the play *Tyrannick Love, or the Royal Martyr*) - Text: John Dryden, 1631 – 1700
- ♣ **Pierre Corneille** (1606 – 1684) "**Mon cher fils**" (from *Le Cid*, act 1, scene 5)
- ♣ **Marc-Antoine Charpentier** (1643 – 1704) "**Percé jusques au fond du cœur**" (Airs sur les stances du *Cid*) - Text: Pierre Corneille, 1606 – 1684
- ♣ **Pierre Corneille** (1606 – 1684) "**Mon cœur outré d'ennuis**" (from the play *Le Cid*, act 1, scene 3)
- ♣ **John Eccles** (1668 – 1735) "**I burn, my brain consumes to ashes**"
- ♣ **John Dowland** (1562 – 1626) "**Flow my tears**" (*The Second Book of Songs or Ayres*, London 1600)



### Garden scene

- ♣ **Henry Purcell** (1659 – 1695) "**Dear pretty youth**" (from the play *The Tempest or The Enchanted Island*) -Text: Thomas Shadwell, c. 1642 – 1692
- ♣ **William Shakespeare** (1564 – 1616) "**My lips, two blushing pilgrims, ready stand**" (from the play *Romeo & Juliet*, act 1, scene 5)
- ♣ **Henry Purcell** (1659 – 1695) "**Now the maids and the men**" (from the play *Fairy Queen*, dialogue between Coridon and Mopsa)
- ♣ **Henry Purcell** (1659 – 1695) "**She loves, and she confesses too**" (from the play *The Mistress*) - Text: Abraham Cowley, 1618 – 1667
- ♣ **John Eccles** (1668 – 1735) "**O Ecstasy of Happiness!**" (from the opera *Semele*) - Text: William Congreve, 1670 – 1729
- ♣ **Henry Lawes** (1595 – 1662) "**A Dialogue upon a Kiss**" (*The treasury of musick*, 1669)