



Knight & Queen

Works by Henry Purcell (1659-1695), John Playford (1623-1686),
William Shakespeare (1564-1616) and John Dryden (1631-1700)

Feelings and torments, who better to evoke them than Henry Purcell? Passions and storms, who better to describe them than William Shakespeare? These two artists placed their genius at the service of the people, and it is into their worlds, singular and teeming, that we invite actors and musicians to enliven today's audiences. Armed with their versatility and skill, by the light of a few candles, they bring this terribly baroque universe to life.

We're in London at the end of the 17th century, when darkness is falling, it's raining outside the window, cards are being dealt on the table. In the company of Frances Purcell, the musician's widow, and publisher Henry Playford, we leaf through the master's posthumous collection, the *Orpheus Britannicus*, a true "bible" of the finest moments in all his brilliant output.

Spirits Songs for some, Music for a while for others, we rediscover Beth's madness, the exotic encounter with an Indian queen, or the picaresque Don Quixote. And as we leap from scene to scene, between dangerous seductions and bold jokes, the whole of Shakespeare's theater is invited to the party.

Built around great musical pages written "to pass the time" (symphonic pieces, masques and canons, arias for singing or drinking, monologues and tragedy scenes), the evening shifts and rocks, between staged concert and Elizabethan theater set to music. It's a cabaret with a counterpoint of epic characters, all of whom have emerged from a dream...

*We are such stuff,
As dream are made on, and our little life
Is rounded with a sleep.* (Shakespeare)

PROGRAM

Music by Henry Purcell
Orpheus Britannicus (1698) : scenes from *The Fairy Queen*, *Indian Queen*, *King Arthur*, *The Tempest*...
Songs *Bess of Bedlam*, *Come, let us leave*
Music for dancing by John Playford

MUSICAL STAFF

3 singers (SAB), 7 instrumentalists (violins, viola, cello, bassoon, recorder, percussions).
Musical direction, organ & harpsichord: Sébastien d'Hérin
Dramaturgy & voice: Caroline Mutel

