

Agnès Mellon / *Barcarole*
www.agnesmellon.com

PROGRAMMES / *Parole e querelle d'amore* / *Inner Light of Tenebrae* / *Mater beata, Mater dolorosa* / *The Art of German Baroque Music* / *Offended Goddesses* / *Voice and Devotion* / *Human Passions* /

Ensemble Barcarole

The renowned soprano **Agnès Mellon**, a major figure in the baroque revival movement in France, is also the founder of Ensemble BARCAROLE, a group devoted to the baroque repertoire for voice and small instrumental ensembles.

Critics have noted that the "very moving" Agnès Mellon, with the eloquent participation of her musicians, always chooses to perform strong works that are rich in expressive possibilities.

Barcarole's musicians

The musicians of this ensemble are all known in France and elsewhere in Europe and other continents through their many concerts, broadcastings and recordings: **Alice Piérot**, violin, **Marianne Muller**, viola da gamba, **Claire Giardelli**, cello, **Lucas Guimaraes Peres**, lirona, **Angélique Mauillon**, harp, **Eric Bellocq**, lute, **Brice Saily** and **Freddy Eichelberger**, harpsichord and organ.

(For complete biographies, program notes or more informations on Agnès Mellon and BARCAROLE: www.agnesmellon.com)

HIGHLIGHTS ✨ Next album by Ensemble BARCAROLE *Parole e querelle d'amore*, which are love duets with countertenor Dominique Visse, will be released by Zig-Zag Territoires in 2010 ✨ Following the success of latest CD on Bis Records *Leçons de Ténèbres* by Couperin and De Lalande, there is now a concert program around *Leçons des Ténèbres* available. ✨ Since December 07, Mezzo TV is broadcasting regularly the program called *Mater beata, Mater dolorosa*. Excerpts of that concerts can also be watched at any time on YouTube. ✨ Ensemble BARCAROLE was heard recently in Nancy, Strasbourg, Arles, Avignon, as well as other cities in France and in Slovenia. ✨ Ensemble BARCAROLE will tour in Japan in June 2010.



For any question, request, shipping of CD and DVD and other promotional material, please contact:

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Parole e querelle d'amore

Agnès Mellon, Soprano and
Artistic Direction
Dominique Visse, Counter Tenor
Marianne Muller, Viola da Gamba
Eric Bellocq, Lute and Teorbo
Brice Sailly, Organ and Harpsichord



A. Mellon and D. Visse: Stars of the baroque scene

"Dark, languid, sparkling or teasing, and sung by two highly qualified singers, the arias, madrigals and cantatas showed the subtleties of the emotions they tackled [...] may it be said, this concert was pure wonder."

LILLE-MÉTROPOLE

Co-production with Zig-Zag Territoires,
CD will be released in 2010



Tender embraces, desire, jealousy, teasing, sadness, despair and lamenting...the passionate joys and sorrows of love have always been eloquently expressed in poetry and music. The Italian repertoire of the 17th century is particularly expansive on this theme, with its madrigali a due voci providing a perfect form for the expression of the games lovers play: tender vows juxtaposed with lovers' quarrels are vividly portrayed in this sensual and passionate music. Agnès Mellon and Dominique Visse bring thirty years of love and musical experience to their performances of masterpieces by such composers as Monteverdi, Sances, Steffani, Strozzi and Frescobaldi.

✿ Works by Sances, Monteverdi, Strozzi, Frescobaldi and others.

Inner Light of Tenebrae

NEW !

Agnès Mellon, Soprano and Artistic
Direction
Marianne Muller, Viola da Gamba
Brice Sailly, Organ

After the success of the CD among the critics,
the *Leçons de Ténèbres* are now available
as a concert program.

✿ Works by Couperin, Charpentier, Marais, Du
Mont and Clérambault.

"[...] Mellon, [...] brings into play the voluptuousness and pliancy that has made her one of the finest interpreters of French Baroque music. These are, in short, performances of infinite tenderness, profound affection and mature insight". *BBC MUSIC MAGAZINE, April 2008*

"Agnès Mellon [has an] exceptionally sensitive and rigorous approach to text and diction, combined with an artistic sense that immediately reaches out to the listener."

LE MONDE DE LA MUSIQUE, March 2008

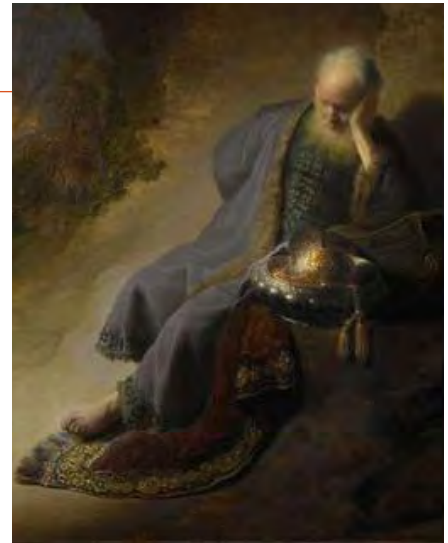
"Agnès Mellon illuminates these *Leçons de Ténèbres*"

"No matter how often we have written these lines, Agnès Mellon's performances continue to astonish us with her dazzling upper register, the brilliance of her timbre and the colours of her ornaments."

RES MUSICA, March 3, 2008

"The singing is exquisite"

LIMELIGHT MAGAZINE, May 2008





Mater beata, Mater dolorosa

Agnès Mellon, Soprano and Artistic Direction
Marianne Muller, Viola da Gamba
Angélique Mauillon, Harp
Lucas Guimaraes Peres, Lirone
Eric Bellocq, Theorbo
Brice Saily, Organ

In this program of sacred Italian music of the 17th century dedicated to the Virgin Mary, Agnès Mellon is accompanied by a lush continuo of viol, harp, lirone, theorbo and organ. The Nativity (beata) and the Passion (dolorosa) are presented as pivotal moments in Christian faith and Marian devotion. This tradition is particularly strong in the latin countries, finding expression in art and countless settings of the Magnificat, Stabat Mater and Salve Regina since the Middle Ages. The birth and death of Christ serve to represent the two extreme experiences of maternal love: the great joy of giving birth to a child and the unbearable pain of seeing His suffering and death.

✿ Works by Sances, Monteverdi, Frescobaldi and Merula. ✿ Program available on DVD, and video excerpts to be watched on www.agnesmellon.com and on YouTube. ✿ MEZZO is broadcasting regularly this program since December 2007.



The Art of German Baroque Music

Agnès Mellon, Soprano and Artistic Direction
Alice Piérot, Violin
Claire Giardelli, Violoncello
Freddy Eichelberger, Organ

Arias for soprano and violin obbligato drawn from Bach Cantatas are set among solos for cello from a Bach suite, followed by a violin sonata. German arias by Händel and Telemann of great simplicity and feeling add a meditative serenity to this lovely program.

In the text for a cantata written in 1729, the poet Marianne von Ziegler provides evidence of the already recognized importance of these three great masters, each so different from the others: "Who could have written this enchanting music? Was it Telemann, Bach or Händel?"

✿ Works by Bach, Telemann and Händel.



Offended Goddesses

Agnès Mellon, Soprano and Artistic Direction
Amélie Michel, Traverso
Alice Piérot, Violin
Marianne Muller, Viola da Gamba
Eric Bellocq, Theorbo
Brice Saily, Harpsichord

Medea, Ariadne, Circe and Hero are women in love: betrayed or abandoned, despairing or enraged. ALPHA Productions' 2005 recording of Agnès Mellon performing these great French cantatas inspired by the heroines of mythology received an enthusiastic reception from the press.

✿ Works by Clérambault, Courbois, Colin de Blamont.

"Soprano Agnès Mellon gives a superb account of this expressively subtle music and she is ideally supported by the ensemble Barcarole."

(EARLY MUSIC TODAY, June 2005)

"Mellon is perfect as each character, and just as the original singers would have, she creates the anger and pain these women felt with powerful vocal interpretations. [...] A must for the fan of French Baroque vocal music."

(EARLY MUSIC AMERICA, Spring 2006)

"Women who love too much: Agnès Mellon's psychological portraits [...] As far as the art of performance is concerned, Agnès Mellon is in no danger of being surpassed in the near future. [...] The instrumentalists are equally effective in their support of the singer's carefully thought-out interpretations, leaving the listener captivated and deeply moved."

(MUSIKANSICH, April 2005)



PROGRAMS

Voice and Devotion

Agnès Mellon: The voice of reverent contemplation

"There was palpable emotion in Purcell's The Blessed Virgin's Expostulation, and even more in the Première Leçon de Ténèbres by François Couperin. The expression of human passions in Giovanni Felice Sances' Stabat Mater Dolorosa evoked the suffering of the Virgin Mary before her Son's agony on the cross. Agnès Mellon's voice, which moves easily from effortless high notes to a well-supported lower range, demonstrates not only agility, but the interiority of a performer who doesn't need to rely on virtuosic effects to plumb the expressive depths of the sacred and religious texts"

(RESMUSICA.COM, April 2006).

Agnès Mellon, Soprano and
Artistic Direction
Freddy Eichelberger, Organ
(or positive organ
+ a viola da gamba player)



The strength and beauty of the works in this program lie in the powerful emotional and highly moving expression of their texts, always perfectly set to music. Agnès Mellon and Freddy Eichelberger—voice and organ—are the sole performers on this program.

❖ Intimate sacred music accompanied by an organ (or positive organ). ❖ Works by Purcell, Sances, Couperin.

Human Passions

"Agnès Mellon's voice is perfectly balanced. It goes from baroque's typical submission to the expression of earthly feelings, from frozen transcendence to flaming passion, each time hitting the right inflexions with model confidence and flexibility. [...] The arias and recitatives, the anger in the agitados, the serenity of the complaints; even in the difficult cantatas, this singer lives every emotion and gives it depth and sparkle, without ever overdoing it. In a word: truthfully, with measure."

(MAINZER RHEIN-ZEITUNG)

Agnès Mellon, Soprano and
Artistic Direction
Marianne Muller, Viola da Gamba
Eric Bellocoq, Lute and Teorbo
Brice Sailly, Harpsichord



From England and Italy, the most beautiful musical pages chosen among the Songs and Scherzi Musicali. Music that speaks of love, especially the cruelty of love. With delicate, warm accompaniment of a continuo, Agnès Mellon explores the variations and innermost expressions of human passions, from the most subtle to the most violent.

❖ Works by Purcell and Monteverdi.

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