



## Petrarca/Marenzio: Laws of Love

**New programme 2024**

### Introduction

The encounter between Luca Marenzio, one of the greatest Italian madrigalists, and the poetry of Francesco Petrarca is one of most extraordinary moments in Renaissance music. Though he had set Petrarca throughout his short career, it was in his final collections of six- and five-voice madrigals – the latter published just months before his death in 1599 – that Marenzio's imagination caught fire. Petrarca's *Canzonere* is an exploration of the poet's feelings towards a distant beloved, Laura, both before and after her death; Marenzio focuses on the latter, creating a unique and complex style in which passionate intensity burns under a surface of resignation and grief, strangely wandering chromatic formations interspersed with ardent cries of yearning.

***Laws of Love*** showcases the greatest of these madrigals, culminating in the famous *Solo e pensoso*, but begins in sunnier mood with settings of Petrarca's more joyful poems, brilliantly illuminated by Marenzio in his lightest vein. In between, taking us across the river from Life to Death, a new work from British composer Naomi Pinnock outlines an obscure, unknown landscape.

### Programme to include:

#### **Marenzio**

Dura legge d'amor  
L'aura serena  
L'aura, che'l verde l'auro  
Giovane donna  
Crudele acerba, inesorabil Morte  
Chiaro segno d'amor  
Amor i hò molti et molti anni pianto  
Se sì alto pon gir  
Solo e pensoso

#### **Naomi Pinnock**

new work

### Programme duration

1 hour

### Performing forces

6 voices SAATTB