



Quel augellin che canta

A natural history in Italian madrigals

New programme 2023

Introduction

Quel augellin che canta is a brilliant and virtuosic exploration of the natural world in the classical and modern repertoire of Italian madrigals. Nature, its birds, animals, flowers and landscapes, is the quintessential setting for countless Renaissance love lyrics. Waves murmur, beasts gambol, birds take wing and breezes blow: the song of birds presages Spring or forms an ironic, innocent contrast to a poet's tortured feelings. He wanders landscapes blooming with flowers and verdant grasses, or rocky outcrops and deserted shores. This programme brings together some of the essential nature-themed madrigals from 16th-century Italy, including works by Wert, Marenzio and Monteverdi. Alongside this we perform the astonishing *12 Madrigali* by Salvatore Sciarrino, designed as a modern response to this earlier repertoire. Sciarrino's pieces go even further in imitating the sounds of the natural world, taking off from the brief haiku of Bashō which form their texts: cicadas, larks, glistening seas and wind-burnished autumn sunsets are dazzlingly portrayed in this compositional and vocal tour-de-force.

Programme

Salvatore Sciarrino	12 Madrigali
Monteverdi	Ecco mormorar l'onde; Quel augellin che canta
Marenzio	Quel augellin che canta; pastoral madrigals; Solo e pensoso
Wert	Vezzosi augelli

Duration

full length (45+45), or can be reduced to 60-minute recital, with selections both of Renaissance and Sciarrino sets

7 singers+conductor