

Medieval Concert

Music of Piety and Pleasure

Duo Laude of Canada

Elizabeth MacIsaac soprano

Pat Unruh vielle

Wednesday, June 23, 2010 6:00 pm

Eglise de Peyresq

Peyresq

Sunday, June 27, 2010 6:00 pm

Eglise Anglicane de Nice

Holy Trinity Anglican Church

11, rue de la Buffa, Nice 06000



(l to r): Pat Unruh and Elizabeth MacIsaac
photo : Dayle Sutherland

Duo Laude returns to southern France for a second concert tour! To connect with its ancient history, we have chosen songs from the Midi and Catalonia: *Reis glorios*, a dawn-lament by the Occitan troubador Guirault de Bornelh, dances for pilgrims en route to Montserrat, from the *Llibre Vermell*, and a cantiga from the collection of King Alfonso X el Sabio that draws on an ancient (and terrifying) Spanish theme of a statue coming to life! Also from Northern Spain, we include devotional music for the nuns cloistered in Burgos, at the convent of Las Huelgas.

Many of the songs speak of women's experiences – the seven joys of Mary the mother, from the *Llibre de Vermell*, and her seven sorrows, in the Las Huelgas collection. Secular women are honoured in the sinuous and lilting dance-songs of the northerner, Guillaume de Machaut: *Ay mi, dame de valour*, *Quant je sui mis*, and *Comment qu'a moy*.

The practice of patronage was essential, then as now, in the encouragement of the arts. And so, in gratitude to our hosts at the Colloque International de Cosmologie de Peyresq, our programme includes Ciconia's *Per quella strada*, an encomium to the Carrara family of Padua, with its emblematic chariot blazing through the Milky Way.

It is a joy for us to be in the mountains of southern France in June – the snows are gone, and trees and flowers are everywhere. What better song can there be, to celebrate this, than Landini's *Ecco la primavera!* We hope that you can come and celebrate this season with us.

(see over for biographical notes)

Duo Laude of Canada

Elizabeth MacIsaac

“a wonderful voice, bright, expressive and pure!” ...

“her voice soared in the high register, filling the hall.” ...

“enchantingly rendered plainchant.....hauntingly beautiful in its limpid simplicity” ...

Elizabeth MacIsaac enjoys a reputation in Canada and abroad as a vocalist of great expressive range. Although primarily known as an early music specialist, she performs other repertoire to acclaim, and tours to premiere and promote contemporary works in Canada, Asia, and Europe.

Ms. MacIsaac lived, taught and performed in Europe from 1990 to 1996, when she was choral director and music teacher at several International schools in Paris, including Marymount and l'Ecole Montessori Bilingue.

Since relocating to Canada in Victoria, British Columbia, Elizabeth MacIsaac has continued her active career as a performer, founding many early music initiatives with great success.

In 1998, Ms. MacIsaac formed Ensemble Laude, the first medieval choir in Western Canada and co-founded, with lutenist Douglas Hensley, the duo Continuum Consort. Creating innovative musical projects each year, both groups frequently perform to raise funds for charitable organizations. Ms. MacIsaac is teacher and conductor on the faculty of the Victoria Conservatory of Music, and Brentwood College. With her dynamic personality, she is in great demand as workshop facilitator and adjudicator.

Pat Unruh

Reviewers have said:

“... a magical sound-world ...”

“... Unruh's instrumental accompaniment created a movingly evocative backdrop.”

“... transported the audience ... simply mesmerizing”

“... vielle accompaniments are full of interest and variety”

Pat Unruh has performed in early music ensembles on viola da gamba and vielle in Canada, the USA, the UK, and France. For several years, she has given annual solo concerts for science conferences organized through the Université Libre de Bruxelles and the Foyer d'Humanisme in Peyresq, Alpes-en-Provence. A founding member of Well-Tempered Baroque and ANIMA Medieval Music Duo, Ms. Unruh has also been, since 1998, Music Director of the Vancouver-based Historical Performance Ensemble, a period dance and theatre company. Ms. Unruh arranges and performs for the Victoria women's medieval choir, Ensemble Laude. She has recorded two CDs with ANIMA and one with Ensemble Laude.

Ms. Unruh is a sessional instructor in Medieval Music History at the University of British Columbia, and is in frequent demand for illustrated talks and workshops throughout BC. She indulges a love of Renaissance pops in her ensemble, Light o' Love. Pat Unruh has composed and performed for a variety of period plays, including twentieth-century settings of Shakespeare. She has been recorded a number of times on national Canadian radio.