



LINN

# CHARLOTTE SPRUIT

with SERGIO BUCHELI & JONATHAN MANSON

*Le Mercure Galant*

ROYAL ACADEMY OF MUSIC BICENTENARY SERIES

# Le Mercure Galant

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**CHARLOTTE SPRUIT** violin

**SERGIO BUCHELI** lute

**JONATHAN MANSON** viola da gamba

Charlotte Spruit is performing on the 'Maurin' violin from Antonio Stradivari's 'Golden' Period, Cremona, 1718, loaned from the collections of the Royal Academy of Music for this recording.

**Johann Paul von Westhoff (1656–1705)**

**Suite for solo violin in A major**

1. Prelude 2:25
2. Allemande 2:11
3. Courante 1:53
4. Sarabande 3:05
5. Gigue – Autre Gigue 1:48

**Robert de Visée (c. 1650/65–after 1732)**

**Pieces in D minor**

with Sergio Bucheli lute

6. Allemande 'la Royale' 2:06
7. Sarabande 2:10
8. Mascarade: Rondeau 2:05

**Michel Lambert (1610–1696)**

9. 'Le repos, l'ombre, le silence' 2:40  
with Jonathan Manson viola da gamba, Sergio Bucheli lute

**Élisabeth Jacquet de La Guerre (1665–1729)**

**Violin Sonata No.1 in D minor**

with Jonathan Manson viola da gamba, Sergio Bucheli lute

10. [Adagio] 2:24
11. Presto 1:55
12. Adagio 0:51
13. Presto – Adagio 1:42
14. Presto 1:48
15. Aria 4:10
16. Presto 2:04

## **Johann Paul von Westhoff**

### **Sonata for violin and basso continuo in A major 'La Guerra'**

with Sergio Bucheli lute, Jonathan Manson viola da gamba

17. Adagio con una dolce maniera – Allegro 2:24
18. Tremulo adagio 0:46
19. Allegro overo un poco presto 0:41
20. Adagio 0:54
21. Aria adagio assai 1:20
22. La guerra cosi nominata di sua Maesta 0:42
23. Aria tutto adagio 1:30
24. Vivace – Gigue 1:33

## **Marc-Antoine Charpentier (1643–1704)**

arr. Charlotte Spruit

25. **'Sans frayeur dans ce bois'** 3:35

with Sergio Bucheli lute

Timing total 49:00

## Royal Academy of Music Bicentenary Series

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The Royal Academy of Music moves music forward by inspiring successive generations of musicians to connect, collaborate and create. It is the meeting point between the traditions of the past and the talent of the future.

The Academy has had an inestimable impact on British and international musical life by training outstandingly talented musicians for fulfilling careers for over 200 years. From its outset, Britain's oldest conservatoire has been associated with some of the greatest names in music including Mendelssohn, Liszt and Sir Henry Wood. More recent alumni include Sir Elton John, Dame Evelyn Glennie, Sir Simon Rattle, Sir Harrison Birtwistle, Edward Gardner, Max Richter, Lucy Crowe, Sheku Kanneh-Mason and Jacob Collier.

Today 800 students from over 50 countries are enrolled on undergraduate, postgraduate and research programmes.

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In 1682, the illustrious violinist and composer Johann Paul von Westhoff, en route from London to Italy, stopped in Versailles to perform two of his works for violin before Louis XIV and his court. His dazzling performances not only captivated the King but also earned his compositions a coveted spot in *Le Mercure galant*, a prominent magazine reporting the vibrant cultural life of the French court, featuring poetry, gossip, reviews, and most notably music.

The refined musical tastes of Louis XIV set the tone for society. Among his favourites was the prodigious Élisabeth Jacquet de La Guerre, whose violin sonatas, as reported by *Le Mercure galant*, astonished the King. Declaring them ‘like nothing he had ever heard before’, the King praised her originality and genius. Equally compelling is Robert de Visée, the King’s cherished lute player, whose compositions (initially for solo lute) were ingeniously adapted with a separate *dessus* (upper) line, transforming them into versatile pieces that could be enjoyed by anyone.

*Le Mercure galant* predominantly published songs, which could be sung or played at home by anyone who loved music. This album includes two of these stunning arias: Michel Lambert’s ‘Le repos, l’ombre, le silence’ and Marc-Antoine Charpentier’s ‘Sans frayeur dans ce bois’, with virtuoso improvisations and divisions for the violin.

Our album *Le Mercure Galant* recreates the intimate atmosphere of a seventeenth-century Parisian salon, where the city’s elite gathered to enjoy the latest musical treasures, this time brought to life by the violin, viola da gamba and lute.

Recorded at St Mark's Church, Old Marylebone Road, London, UK,  
on 11 & 12 April 2024

*Recording Producer & Engineer*  
Philip Hobbs

*Post-production*  
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*Design*  
Valérie Lagarde

*Cover Image*  
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