



From:

**ARS Awards and concerts
aplenty during the Boston
Early Music Festival,
Bits & Pieces**

*(The Pleasures of Love and Libation, Aires
by Julie Pinel and other Parisian women.
Concert and CD release, June 16, 2007)*

La Donna Musicale, a group of nine talented women led by gambist Laury Gutiérrez, presented an extravaganza in the auditorium of the Benjamin Franklin Institute of Technology . . . First the audience was treated to an enormous brunch, accompanied by a silent auction and a CD release, while sitting at tables with name placards on them, as at a wedding. Then all heard a lecture by Catherine Gordon-Seifert on “Precious Eroticism and Hidden Morality,” discussing the encoded erotic language in 17th- and 18th-century French airs. The lecture was entertaining as well as instructive, and well-delivered in a somewhat cavernous room. The concert that followed, entitled “The Pleasures of Love and Libation,” was of music composed entirely by French women of the 17th and early 18th centuries—some with familiar names; some not familiar, like Julie Pinel. Most were songs of love; welcome words and translations were in the program. All of the performers, too numerous to list here, acquitted themselves well: the three singers had lovely voices and poised stage presence; and the ensemble playing of harpsichordists and theorbo was solid. Na’ama Lion’s flute playing was impeccable. Wonder of wonders: Gutiérrez got the entire audience to sing a three-part air à boire from facsimile, lustily if not with enormous finesse. The brunch, lecture and concert were a huge and worthwhile undertaking. Let us hope that it will result in many CDs being sold by this charming group.

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