



*The Pleasures
of Love and Libation:
Airs by Julie Pinel
and other Parisian women*

*Sherezhade Panthaki, Yulia Van Doren, sopranos;
Lydia H. Knutson, Daniela Tasic, mezzo-sopranos;
Aaron Sheehan, tenor; David Olsen, bass;
Justin Godoy, recorder; Na'ama Lion, baroque flute;
Cécile Garcia-Moeller, violin;
Barbara Poeschl-Edrich, harp; Catherine Liddell, theorbo;
Noriko Yasuda, harpsichord; Ruth McKay, organ, harpsichord;
Laury Gutiérrez, viola da gamba, director*

Musicologists studying women composers have dedicated much ink to certain women attached to the salons of 17th- and 18th-century Paris. Although a number of recordings have been dedicated to the works of Elisabeth Jacquet de la Guerre (1665-1729) and others who wrote for the keyboard, there has been a noticeable gap in recordings of compositions by women who contributed to the repertory for voice, employing particular contemporary genres such as the air, chansonette, and brunette. In addition to being wonderful compositions, these pieces add an extra layer to women's cultural history because they present the added dimension of text. Many of the songs, when translated from the contemporary vernacular, demonstrate an earthiness and comfortable acceptance of the ways of love.

The Pleasures of Love and Libation is the third recording from La Donna Musicale, a group that has previously recorded the works of Antonia Bembo and Jacquet de la Guerre. They turn now to these vocal works, the majority of which were penned by Julie Pinel (fl. 1710-1737). Various combinations of performers in this talented group take turns interpreting a rich selection of songs. Interspersed throughout are instrumental tracks, two of which again represent Jacquet de la Guerre. Particularly noteworthy are the final two tracks, "Craignez L'Amour et sa colère" and "Aux plus heureux amants mon fort doit faire envie," because they feature most of the ensemble. Also worth a word are the excerpts from Jacquet de la Guerre's violin sonata in D minor, with Cécile J. Garcia-Moeller as soloist. Kudos to La Donna Musicale as they champion the unheard music of women composers of the distant past.

- Denise Gallo