



Excerpts from “*European Renaissance*”,
a recording review by David Trendell

The Seven Psalms of David, Volume I

La Donna Musicale, Laury Gutiérrez,

viola da gamba and director

La Donna Musicale 2004

(available at www.ladm.org)

57:40 minutes

...The Boston-based ensemble La Donna Musicale is dedicated to the historically informed performance of music by women composers... The four psalms recorded here show her [Antonia Padonai Bembo] fully conversant with contemporary French settings, alternating in quick succession recitative and aria-like passages in the manner of a contemporary like Brossard. If not music of the absolute highest quality, it is nevertheless full of quirky modulations and abounds in affective chromaticism and dissonance. It also exploits the full vocal range of the accomplished singers on this disc. In particular, soprano Margaret Hunter and tenor Aaron Sheehan produce a moving performance of *Domine ne in furore*, with idiomatic phrasing and ornamentation... [The] Baroque flute of Na’ama Lion...produces...sensitive playing later in Elisabeth Jacquet de la Guerre’s A major sonata (originally published for violin, but here convincingly transferred to the flute)...

[T]his is...a most interesting disc of a neglected figure and the strong advocacy of La Donna Musicale is impressive.

Trendell, David 1964- “European Renaissance”,
Early Music - Volume 34, Number 2, May 2006, pp. 317-318