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„Songs of Love" - Henry Purcell and Music from Arabia

VALER SABADUS – COUNTERTENOR

Dima Orsho
Valer Sabadus
Musica Alta Ripa

A production by Danya Segal

Every music has a special origin and identity. Like no other art form, however, it can also connect people, express their dreams and hopes, their disappointments and feelings. This is especially true of the deepest and strongest of all human feelings: love. Self-love, love of partners, love of one's homeland – the arc that love spans is infinitely wide. Under him, fears, boundaries and prejudices lose their gravity.

"O Solitude" means loneliness in German translation and stands for pain, longing, bitterness, cold. But when the world-famous countertenor Valer Sabadus translates them into sounds in "Songs of Love", which England's most important composer Henry Purcell (1659-1695) wrote more than 300 years ago, we also get to know loneliness and the pain of love from their exhilarating side. Purcell surprises again and again with unusual harmonic turns and provides great emotions with ingenious contrapuntal and rhythmic surprises within simple musical structures. Purcell combined English musical tradition with innovative impulses from France and Italy. He was open to new things!

Arabic music is rarely documented, it has been passed down from generation to generation.

Therefore, we have dealt with ancient poems and musical forms from Arabia. The renowned singer and composer Dima Orsho has rearranged and composed music on the theme of love from the Arab world for the program. In her own compositions, she integrates old Arabic music forms, which requires interpretation and, above all, improvisation. In her commissioned composition "Wallada's Lament" she sets to music a poem by the stateswoman and princess Wallada (994-1091), daughter of the Caliph of Cordoba.

At "Songs of Love – Henry Purcell and Music from Arabia", on the one hand, each artist will present himself with music from his cultural area and, on the other hand, we will cross borders together and discover a new world of sound together. Dima Orsho and Valer Sabadus meet in four duets in which both leave their respective musical "comfort zones" and dare to try something new. Already through the partly new instrumentation of old works and the wonderful homogeneous yet exotic sound of the intended instruments, the award-winning ensemble MUSICA ALTA RIPa together with the exceptional artists Milad Khawam, Mevan Younes and Hogir Göregen provides a firework of love. The old instruments of the European Baroque are supplemented by duduk, trumpet, buzuq and percussion (e.g. darbuka, tombak, daf).

The spark between the musical cultures of the Orient and Occident is so great that with "Songs of Love – Henry Purcell and Music from Arabia" we are interweaving baroque and oriental sound

Weigold & Böhm

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worlds for the third time. Also because the collaboration is so exciting and inspiring for us artists. Behind everything is the love of music.

Danya Segal

Program::

Milad Khawam - Duduk Solo Improvisation
Henry Purcell - O Solitude, my sweetest Choice
Dima Orsho - Ya Ghazali (Arrangement)
Henry Purcell - If Love's a sweet Passion (The Fairy Queen)
Hogir Göregen - Percussion Solo Improvisation
Henry Purcell - Strike the
Dima Orsho - Wallada's Lament
Henry Purcell - Monkey's Dance (The Fairy Queen)
Wanis Wartanian - Longa Shahnaz (Arrangement M. Yamani)
Henry Purcell - Sound the Trumpet (Come ye sons of Art)
Henry Purcell - First Act Tune (King Arthur)
Henry Purcell - Third Act Tune (The Fairy Queen)
Fouad Abdel Magid - Ya Ghareeb Al Dar (Arrangement D. Orsho)
Henry Purcell - Jig First Act Tune (The Fairy Queen)
Henry Purcell - Adagio (The Indian Queen)
Henry Purcell - The Plaint: O let me weep (The Fairy Queen)
Dima Orsho - Those forgotten on the Banks of the Euphrates