

LA MORRA



Isabel La Católica,
Queen of Castile (1451-1504)
anonymous Flemish master
(c1520)

LUZ DEL ALVA

Renaissance Spanish Songs of Love, War and Devotion

The imagery of the morning has been a recurring *topos* in the Medieval and Renaissance poetry ever since the days of the first vernacular poets, the Occitan *trobadors*. It is in the morning that the lovers must part; it is in the morning, when the battle begins; and it is in the morning that a song in praise of God (*alba*) resounds.

All of them occur in the poetry of the Spanish polyphonic art song, which flourished during the late fifteenth and early sixteenth centuries. Those were the days of the Catholic Kings (*los Reyes Católicos*) Fernando and Isabel, whose politics laid the foundation for Spain's power in the Early Modern Europe; the days of Cristóbal Colón's expeditions and his subsequent discovery of The New World; but also the days of the War of Granada and the expulsion of Jews from Spain.

As it is known today from its main sources (*Cancionero Musical de Colombina* and *Cancionero Musical de Palacio*), the corpus of Spanish polyphonic art song repertoire consists of several hundreds of pieces. This provides a vast amount of material for LA MORRA's new concert and recording project. To bring about its realisation, a long anticipated 'reunion of old friends' will take place: Arianna Savall, Petter Johansen, Corina Marti and Michal Gondko all met during their student years at the *Schola Cantorum Basiliensis* back in the 1990s. Together with the Swedish viola da gamba player, Tore Eketorp, they join forces to offer their public the gems of this madly beautiful music, which once delighted the aristocratic society of the Early Renaissance Spain, including the royal ears.

Repertoire

PASE EL AGUA, MA JULIETA DAMA (anonymous)
AL ALVA VENID (anonymous)
LA GRACIA DE VOS (anonymous)
QU'ES DE TI DESCONSOLADO? (Encina)
DONSELLA MADRE DE DIOS (Anchieta)
LA SPAGNA (Ghiselin)
and more...

Performers

ARIANNA SAVALL
(voice, harp)
PETTER JOHANSEN
(voice, fiddle)
CORINA MARTI
(flutes, artistic direction)
MICHAL GONDKO
(lute, vihuela de mano, ghiterra, artistic direction)
TORE EKETORP
(vihuela d'arco)

Approximate duration

60' (no intermission)

Most suitable venue

resonant medium church or concert hall

FEE ON APPLICATION

Data (repertoire, performers) subject to change. Definite programme will be supplied at later date.