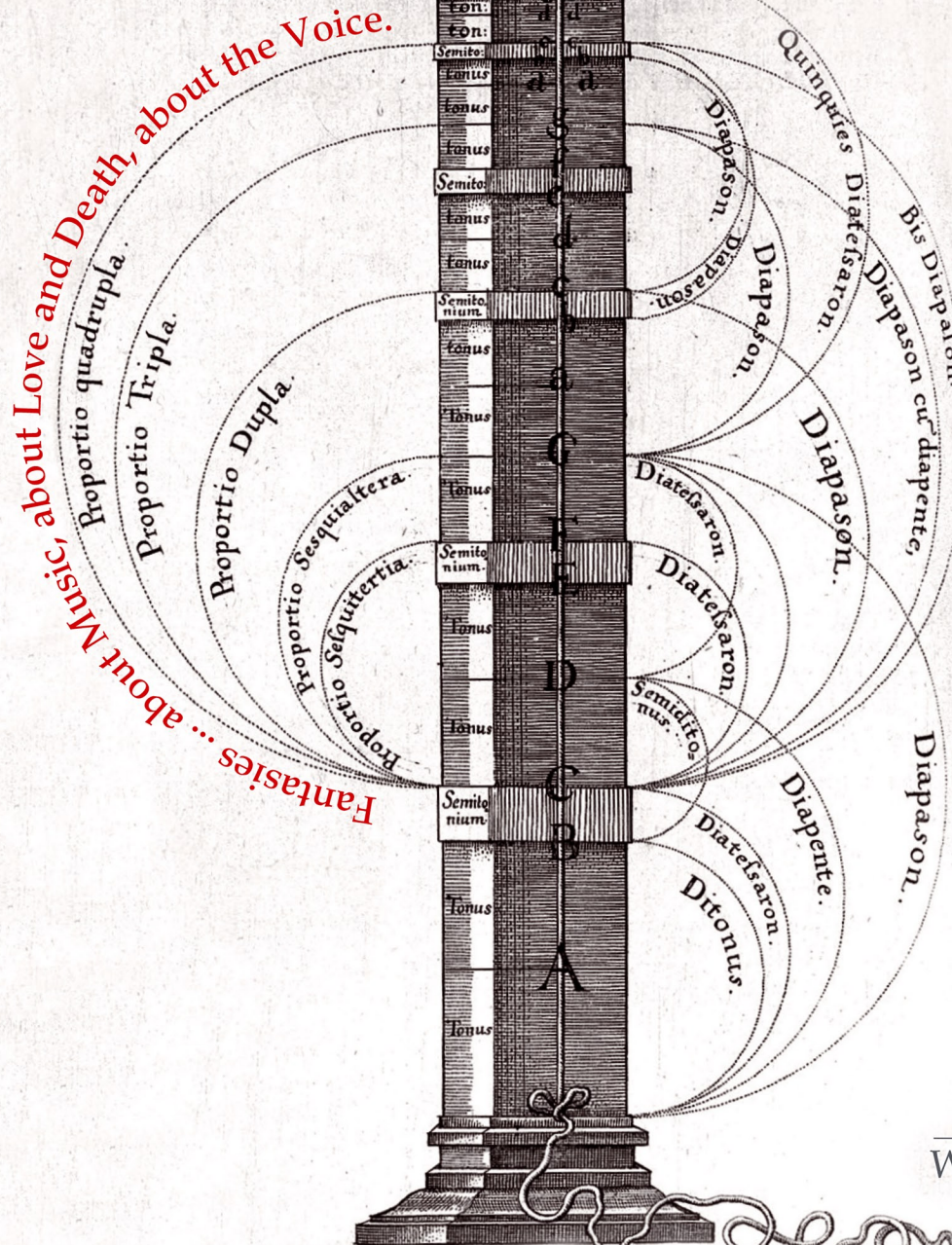


EXAUDI Vocal Ensemble

Michael Finnissy
vocal works 1974-2015



MUSIC EDITION
WINTER & WINTER

Michael Finnissy { *1946 }

EXAUDI Vocal Ensemble · James Weeks *conductor*

1 – 7} GESUALDO: LIBRO SESTO

I {3:45} II {2:57} III {2:16} IV {3:28} V {3:58} VI {3:04} VII {4:09}

Michael Finnissy, 2012-2013 · Verlag Neue Musik

Juliet Fraser, Amy Moore *soprano* · Lucy Goddard *mezzo soprano* · Tom Williams *countertenor*
Stephen Jeffes, Jonathan Bungard *tenor* · Simon Whiteley, Jimmy Holliday *bass*

8} CIPRIANO {10:45}

Michael Finnissy, 1974 · G. Ricordi & Co. Bühnen- und Musikverlag

Emma Tring *high soprano* · Juliet Fraser, Rebecca Lea *soprano* · Lucy Goddard *mezzo soprano*
Kate Symonds-Joy *contralto* · Stephen Jeffes {*solo*}, Jonathan Bungard *tenor*
Jonathan Saunders *baritone* · Simon Whiteley, Jimmy Holliday *bass*

9} TOM FOOL'S WOOING {18:49}

Michael Finnissy, 1975-1978/2015 · Universal Edition

Emma Tring *high soprano, conga* · Juliet Fraser, Rebecca Lea, Amanda Morrison *soprano*
Lucy Goddard {*solo*} *mezzo soprano* · Kate Symonds-Joy *contralto, conga* · Cathy Bell *contralto*
Tom Williams *countertenor* · David de Winter {*solo*}, Stephen Jeffes *tenor*
Jonathan Bungard, Jonathan Saunders *baritone* · Simon Whiteley, Jimmy Holliday *bass*

10} KELIR {15:36}

Michael Finnissy, 1981 · Verlag Neue Musik

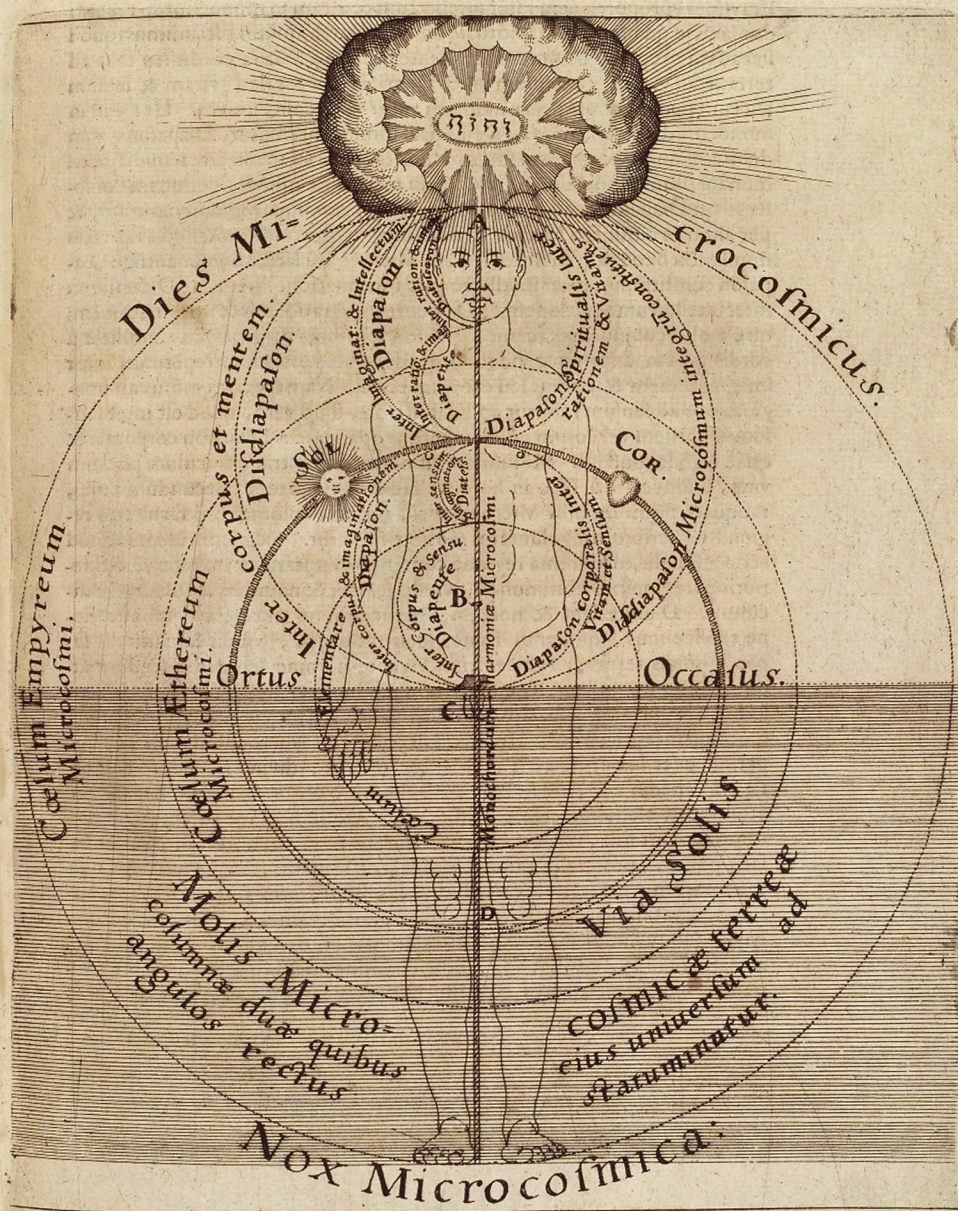
Juliet Fraser, Amy Moore *soprano* · Lucy Goddard *mezzo soprano*
Stephen Jeffes *tenor* · Simon Whiteley *baritone* · Jimmy Holliday *bass*



A Production of Winter & Winter · *Album Producer*: Stefan Winter
Executive Producers: Mariko Takahashi and Stefan Winter
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www.winterandwinter.com · facebook.com/winterandwintermusicedition
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'Is not song that arena where the voice is so spectacularly displayed, fuelled by so many breathless propulsions, fantasies, sexualities, and dreams?'

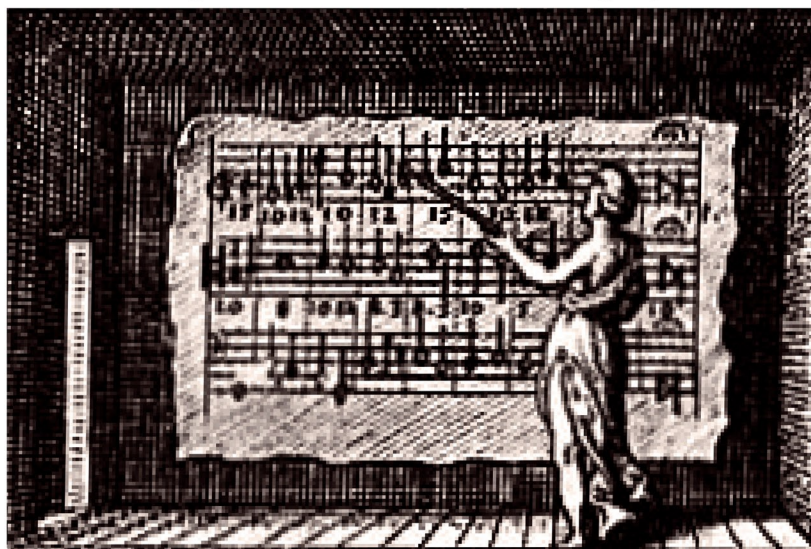
— BRANDON LABELLE, LEXICON OF THE MOUTH

The voice has a central place in Michael Finnissy's output. His is an art of line, of connective lyric movement spun out over

a breath; it is also a deeply humanist art, an art in ardent search of human connection, of which the voice, reaching out from the depths of the body into the world around us, is the primal vehicle. Finnissy's work manifests across the decades an abiding concern with the complex nature of this most bodily, most physical, most personal of instruments – what it is to give voice, to vocalise, to speak or sing in different contexts and different ways, private or public, as an individual or as part of a collective.

The four works on this recording, spanning forty years, show Finnissian vocality at its most blazingly intense: displays of virtuosity that push mind and body to the limits of their flexibility, reach, stamina and control. The most recent work,

GESUALDO: LIBRO SESTO, offers seven '*fantasies ... about music, about love and death, about the voice,*' as the composer writes, drawing on fragments of music and on texts from Gesualdo's final madrigal book in a cycle of almost operatic scope. In the early 'dramatic madrigal' CIPRIANO, St Cyprian rigidly resists the carnal temptations of a Demon, played with flamboyant excess by the



rest of the ensemble; TOM FOOL'S WOOING {which lay unperformed for almost forty years before the present performance was recorded} is even more vocally extravagant, a celebration of marriage and the joys of eros, incorporating Eastern European love

poetry, Spenser's Epithalamion and an English mummer's play. KELIR, the most abstract but also perhaps most rawly physical of the four, takes its title from the name given to the curtain onto which shadow-puppets are projected in Javanese wayang kulit {puppet theatre}; by extension, writes Finnissy, 'it is also a curtain onto which our interpretations of the world, and our fantasies, are projected.'

— JAMES WEEKS

PLEASE SEE WWW.WINTERANDWINTER.COM FOR DETAILED ACCOMPANYING TEXTS, LYRICS AND FURTHER INFORMATION.

*The recordings of **KELIR** and **GESUALDO: LIBRO SESTO** were generously supported by the following individuals:*



Newton Armstrong, MJ Appleton, Gerald Barry, Cathy Bell, Robert Bottone, Jeanice Brooks, Charlotte Burke, Stephen Chase, Ben Coghlan, Laurence Crane, Kathy Dallas, Nicholas Drew, Ken Edwards, Carl Faia, Jennifer Fowler, Christopher Fox, Avery Fraser, Juliet Fraser, John Furse, Sara Gall, Patrick Giguère, Alexander Glyde-Bates, David Gorton, Leo Grant, Matthew Hamilton, Morgan Hayes, Alex Hills, Nicolas Hodges, Paul Hodges, André Hoffmann, Jimmy Holliday, Elizabeth Hopkirk, Colin Johnson, Evan Johnson, Rob Johnston, Vincent Keaveny, Rodney Lister, Nigel McBride, Sarah Mahon, Arnold Marinissen, Luke Mather, Dr Chris Mercer, Cassandra Miller, Sara Mohr-Pietsch, Amy Moore, Mary Moore, Michele Morassut, Michael Oesterle, Miranda Page-Wood, Eleri Pound, Heather Roche, Laurence Rose, Deborah Rossiter, Jon Saunders, Georgina Sear, Matthew Scott, Nefeli Skarmea, Jonathan Stainsby, Christian Stobbs, Dennis Stevenson, Andrew Toovey, Serge Vuille, James Ware, John Weeks, Judith Weir, Robin Wills, Kerry Yong, Patrick Young.

We also wish to record our thanks to City, University of London, for the use of their Performance Space for these recordings.

*The concert at which **TOM FOOL'S WOOING** and **CIPRIANO** were recorded, a celebration of Michael Finnissy's 70th birthday, was generously supported by The Hinrichsen Foundation. In addition we wish to record our thanks to the Guildhall School of Music & Drama for the support of this event and the use of Milton Court Concert Hall.*

A Production of Winter & Winter

GESUALDO: LIBRO SESTO: *Recorded at City, University of*

London, May 29, 2015 · Recording Engineer: Dave Rowell · Recording

Producer: Aaron Cassidy · CIPRIANO, TOM FOOL'S WOOING: *Recorded Live at*

Milton Court Concert Hall London, March 12, 2016 · Recording Engineer: Simon Eadon

Recording Producer: Aaron Cassidy · KELIR: *Recorded at City, University of London,*

Feb. 4, 2015 · Recording Engineer: Dave Rowell · Recording Producer: Aaron Cassidy

Mixed and Mastered at AvR Studio, Steinenbronn, Germany, April 2018

Mixing and Mastering Engineer: Adrian von Ripka · Album Producer: Stefan Winter

Layout, Photography: Winter & Winter · Images © Wellcome Collection: Robert Fludd {1547- 1637}

Executive Producers: Mariko Takahashi, Stefan Winter

EXAUDI Vocal Ensemble on Winter & Winter

also available as download

Stefano Gervasoni »Dir - in dir«

CD N° 910 208-2

James Weeks »Mala Punica«

CD N° 910 239-2

www.exaudi.org.uk

www.jamesweeks.org

For further information please see

www.winterandwinter.com