

Armonia celeste

Instrumental music of the 16th and 17th centuries
from Italy, England and Germany

Music by Ortiz, Fontana, Matteis and others

"Armonia celeste - Heavenly Balance" is the title of our concert programme, the common thread of which is the stylistic change in art around 1600: In this period, on the threshold between the Renaissance and the Baroque, the emotionality of the individual becomes the centre of attention in the new literature, painting and music and confidently paves its way. The baroque style was born!

In our programme, we give a hearing to both Renaissance and Baroque music in order to make the interweaving of the two eras tangible.

On the one hand, there is the sound world of the Renaissance, represented in our programme with traditional and lively dances by Ortiz or Schop, as well as with complex contrapuntal madrigals by Palestrina and de Rore.

On the other hand, there are the compositions of the (Early) Baroque period, represented by sonatas and suites from the 17th century, which epitomise the new. All music from this period is suddenly charged with emotion and reflects audible passions. Our programme therefore includes very expressive instrumental arrangements of vocal music as well as virtuoso solo sonatas that have clearly emancipated themselves from vocal music. A new self-confidence of the instruments and their players can be experienced through the addition of new instrumental possibilities, such as the rapid passagework over several octaves, sustained by an expressive and harmonious basso continuo.

It is exciting for us to span these very different musical horizons and create a balance for you!

In this way, you can experience in the programme how audible connections arise between these poles. The change of style in music around 1600 is, depending on your point of view, not a radical revolution, but a change that also preserves the essence of the old through references and connections in the new and lets the spark of the new glow in the old:

Armonia celeste!

Cielo barocco

Frank Oberschelp - recorders
Riccardo Delfino – baroque harp