

THE SOCIETY OF STRANGE AND ANCIENT INSTRUMENTS



The Minsitry of Angels

Angels have played a part in human consciousness for as long as we can remember. Their roles in the life of mankind are various; they appear as guardians, counsellors, guides, judges, and interpreters and cross barriers of culture, language, religion and geography. Many are a force for good but there are also fallen angels, angels of death and others who are spirits of wrath, destruction, confusion and vengeance. In this programme we explore music associated with angels, the maverick and fallen as well as the divine and perfect. Playing some of the instruments that appear in descriptions and depictions of angels through the ages, as well as other strange and ethereal sounding instruments, we present traditional tunes, dances and songs in a celebration of these heavenly and occasionally diabolical beings.

The Society of Strange and Ancient Instruments

directed by Clare Salaman

Clara Sanabras : voice, baroque and renaissance guitars, percussion
'capturing the head and heart in equal measure' Musician Magazine

Clare Salaman : nyckelharpa, hurdy gurdy,
Hardanger fiddle
'Beautiful, vehement playing' The Daily Telegraph

Jean Kelly : clasarch, renaissance harp, medieval
harp
*'Delighting both ear and eye, the lovely Jean Kelly
starred in Handel's delicious Harp Concerto'*
Bournemouth Echo

Peter McCarthy : unusual bass instruments
Principal bass player with The English Concert



'[The Society of Strange and Ancient Instruments] has forged a reputation for being one of our finest exponents of early music. [They] enchant and amaze in equal measure' The Musician

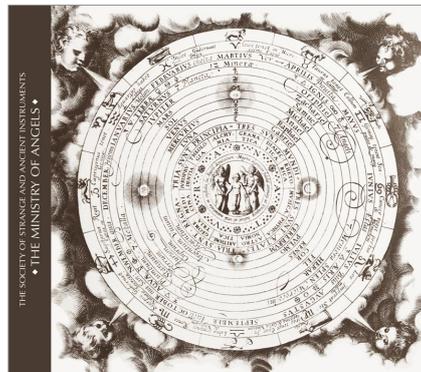
The Society of Strange and Ancient Instruments was founded by Clare Salaman in 2010 to explore a musical repertoire that ranges from folk songs and earthy dances to high art music from the 13th-18th centuries, and newly composed pieces. The Society takes its inspiration from a group of musicians called *La Société des Instruments Anciens* who gave a series of performances of 'easy listening' baroque music in Paris in the early 1900s. At the time, their instruments – hurdy gurdy, viola d'amore, viola da gamba and harpsichord – were considered wildly exotic, and audiences were enthralled by the group's fresh, innovative presentation that injected new life into familiar pieces. The Society of Strange and Ancient Instruments' repertoire extends beyond that of the Société to include Medieval, Renaissance and new music, but the aim is still to enchant listeners with the unexpected sounds and sights of their instruments.

Since its inception, the group has performed many concerts, released a CD and given several radio broadcasts. In December 2012, a live concert performance of their current programme, 'The Ministry of Angels' was broadcast on 'The Early Music Show' on BBC Radio 3. More information can be found on The Society's website. www.strangeandancientinstruments.com

'The Ministry of Angels' CD

'Taking the familiar and making it fresh'
Early Music News review (5 stars)

'All [the musicians] display taste, refinement and pure musicianship throughout this recording'
The Musician



Audience comments

I attended your concert in Frome and thought it was just about the best concert I have gone to in years!

We really loved your concert last night in York, it was a great way to end our 6 days at the Christmas Early Music Festival.

Awesome stuff! Early music is the new rock & roll!