



## **Crescendo presents: Cantos y Suspiros – Songs and Sighs** **Early Songs and dances from Spain and Latin America**

This winter season Crescendo presents a program with lively and theatrical Hispanic music of the 17th and early 18th centuries for soprano and period instrument ensemble. The repertoire is by some of the greatest early composers of Spain and Latin America, such as Juan Hidalgo, the most influential composer of his time in the Hispanic world, also known as “the father of Spanish Opera and Zarzuela,” Sebastian Durón, who was considered the greatest Spanish composer of stage and sacred music of his time, Santiago de Murcia, one of the leading Spanish composers and performers of guitar music of his day, and Peruvian child prodigy and later chief organist at the Lima cathedral José de Orejón y Aparicio, among others.

To make the concert experience specially appealing, the program alternates between dances, songs and airs, creating a varied dramatic flow that resembles a stage work of one of the writers of the era: Shakespeare, Moliere, or Cervantes. The themes are varied: nature, birds and other animals, the sea, the wind and the forest, the pleasures and treacheries of human and divine love. Vocal pieces are interspersed with instrumental movements, much like it was custom at social gatherings at court or at home in those times, when live music was one of the main sources of entertainment. The titles of some of the pieces speak for themselves: “Rompa el aire en suspiros” (The air breaks out in sighs), “Pajarillo que bien cantas ausente” (Little bird, your song in absence), “La Borrachita de Amor” (The little drunk lover), “Pajarito que en el aire elevado” (Little bird, soaring high in the air) and “Nace la aurora divina” (The divine dawn is born). One of the dances, the ‘Canario’ (or Canary), will be presented in a medley by several composers, and send the audiences home tapping the popular rhythms and humming the popular melodies. It was inspired in an indigenous dance and song of the Canary Islands, and became wildly popular all over Europe. This “fiery wooing dance” was also called “frogs legs,” because of its energetic jumps, stomping of the feet and violent movement, and music with syncopated rhythms.

Crescendo presents for the first time the acclaimed Boston-based early music soprano Camila Parias. Parias has toured and performed nationally and internationally, and just completed a recording project in her native city Bogota, Colombia, with never before heard repertoire from the local cathedral. The Boston Globe compared her to a “young Ella Fitzgerald..., who brings a versatile and unique tone of voice to this repertoire.” The diversity of timbres of the instrumental ensemble accompanying her – violin, viola da gamba, Baroque harp, Baroque guitar, virginal and an organ – illustrate the richness of the “human passions” that this music evokes. For this performance Crescendo Period Instrument ensemble features Christa Patton, a noted historical harpist and early wind specialist who has performed with many of today’s premier early music ensembles throughout the Americas, Europe, and Japan; Gina Allende, one of Chile’s foremost viola da gamba players; one of Boston’s young Baroque violinist Job Salazar, who is equally familiar with period playing as he is in the Mariachi repertoire of his homeland; Hideki Yamaya, a highly specialized performer of early plucked instruments, who brings the flavor of the early Spanish guitar to the group; and Crescendo’s founding artistic director Christine Gevert, an internationally renowned early music specialist, who performs on two early keyboards: the virginal and the organ.

The concerts are on Saturday, February 4, 2023, at 4 pm at Trinity Church, 484 Lime Rock Rd., Lakeville, CT; and on Sunday, February 5, at 4 pm at Saint James Place, 352 Main Street, Great Barrington, MA. For more information, Covid precaution policy, and online ticket purchases please go to: [www.crescendomusic.org](http://www.crescendomusic.org), or call 860.435.4866. Tickets will also be available for purchase at the door. There will be a limited number of free tickets for both performances (first come, first served): by written request only via an email to [crescendo@crescendomusic.org](mailto:crescendo@crescendomusic.org).

Founded by Artistic Director Christine Gevert and local supporters, the award winning music organization Crescendo offers an ongoing program of music performance and education for the communities of Connecticut’s Northwest Corner, the Berkshires and the Mid-Hudson Valley. With the participation of international performers and teachers as well as non-professionals, Crescendo’s choral and instrumental concerts, its lectures and workshops reach audiences of all ages and levels of experience.

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