

Música Ficta

Juan de Navas

Alado cisne de nieve

Works by: Jean-Baptiste Lully, Juan de Navas, Anonymous, Gaspar Sanz, Pierre Bucquet

Ensemble Música Ficta

Label: Et'cetera Records, distribution QUINTESSENCE

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Short secular and sacred songs by Juan de Navas have been unearthed by the Colombian ensemble Música Ficta for its new CD focused on discoveries from Spanish baroque music archives. The Colombian ensemble Música Ficta's latest disc, titled "Alado cisne de nieve," Art Songs by Juan de Navas, was released under the label Et'cetera.

The CD begins with a chaconne by Jean Baptiste Lully, which comes from the opera "Armide," in the manuscript collection "Flores de música" by Martín y Coll. This shows that at the end of the 17th and the beginning of the 18th century, the interest of Spanish composers and musicians was not only towards Italian musicians, but also in their French colleagues.

Juan de Navas is a new finding. Once again, this proves that there are still many treasures to be found in the Baroque, and fortunately there are ensembles and record labels researching forgotten and unknown repertoire.

Et'cetera is a small, classical and independent label, founded in the early 1980s and based in Belgium. Its steadily-growing catalog shows its commitment to a niche repertoire that focuses on the much-cited concept of authenticity.

Música Ficta, on the other hand, is a Colombian ensemble with a passion for forgotten works, and one of the most renowned early music ensembles in Latin America, with a special focus on Hispanic repertoire. Founded in 1994 by tenor and percussionist Jairo Serrano in Colombia, it continues to search for early manuscripts and printed music.

It is surprising that the works of Juan de Navas have not yet become known, as he was a student of the celebrated Juan Hidalgo, one of the most famous Spanish composers in the second half of the 17th century. He wrote, among others, a whole series of Zarzuelas, comedic courtly Singspielen, Tonos humanos and Tonos divinos. The latter are short art songs for one or two voices with instrumental accompaniment.

Typical stylistic devices used in this music are strongly syncopated rhythms with changing character and the use of texts by the most famous poets of the Spanish Golden Age, such as Calderón de la Barca and Lope de Vega.

The pieces Con que esa es tu pena / Ay, zagales / Quién ha de temer un ciego, are part of the Zarzuela "Apolo and Dafne" by Juan de Navas, rediscovered pieces presented by the ensemble on this, their latest CD.

The entire recording is absolutely relaxed and has a pleasant sound. The instruments used are theorbo, baroque guitars, recorders and various Latin American percussion instruments. It is a world in which one can immerse oneself. Even if one does not understand the Spanish texts, these can be read in the informative booklet.