



APL90277

PRESS CONTACT:
Geoffrey Silver: 646-320-8425
geoffrey.silver@acisproductions.com

“...I am struck, as in recent years, by how much the small independent labels...have been breaking through with exciting recordings.”

ANTHONY TOMMASINI, *The New York Times*

VAGO DESIO:

Barbara Strozzi, Opus 8 (1664) Part I

Elissa Edwards, Soprano | Richard Kolb, Theorbo

APL90277 | 57:52 | DDD

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: This new album of early music includes four world premieres and presents Strozzi's final opus in performances that take advantage of the nimble expressiveness of the pairing of voice and lute. The combination gives the greatest possible scope to flexibility of expression through rapid shifts of tempo, dynamics, mood, and textures. Among the many recordings of Strozzi's works, this album stands out for its exclusive use of the performing medium that was most common for vocal chamber music during Strozzi's time. "Vago desio" features engaging and virtuosic arias and cantatas that are among Strozzi's finest works, displaying her full mastery of harmony and imaginative formal structures that enhance the expression of the poetry.

Barbara Strozzi, one of the most remarkable female composers of the 17th century, established herself among the leading musical voices of her time, flaunting patriarchal restrictions through a combination of brilliant musical talent, irrepressible drive, and brilliant diplomacy. Strozzi sang throughout her career as it unfolded in the animated cultural scene of mid-17th-century Venice. There, during the 1640s and 50s, she came to be widely acknowledged as the city's leading and most prolific composer of vocal chamber music.

In 2016 **Elissa Edwards and Richard Kolb** discovered a mutual affection for rarely performed virtuosic repertoire of the 17th century and the music of under-appreciated composers. Their collaborative approach focuses on the rhetoric of the text as the basis for the inspiration for their musical interpretations. Their shared vision is to make Strozzi's music more celebrated through historically informed performances, grounded in solid scholarship.

Richard Kolb's performances are informed by many years of scholarship devoted to 17th-century vocal chamber music, and by insights gained through editing Strozzi's complete works (Cor Donato Editions, 8 vols.).

Elissa Edwards is an exponent of music of the baroque and classical periods, with a voice perfectly suited to Strozzi's virtuosic music. Her insightful performances enliven the dramatic texts with a clear warm sound, imaginative expression, and exciting coloratura.

DOWNLOAD AND STREAM: <https://barbara-strozzi.hearnow.com>

PRINTABLE COVERS, NOTES, LYRICS: <https://acisproductions.com/vago-desio-elissa-edwards-richard-kolb/>

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