



*The Pleasures
of Love and Libation:
Airs by Julie Pinel
and other Parisian women*

Sherezade Panthaki, Yulia Van Doren, sopranos
Lydia H. Knutson, Daniela Tomic, mezzo-soprano
Aaron Sheehan, tenor; David Olsen, bass;
Justin Godoy, recorder; Na'ama Lion, baroque flute
Cécile Garcia-Moeller, violin
Barbara Poeschl-Edrich, harp
Catherine Liddell, theorbo
Noriko Yasuda, harpsichord
Ruth McKay, organ, harpsichord
Laury Gutiérrez, viola da gamba, director

Zanetti's unpleasing singing of Rameau is, sadly, all too typical of European sopranos today – not least some self-styled Early Music specialists. For some time, the best high voices practising in the field of French Baroque music have come from America and Canada. One thinks of Julianne Baird and Suzie LeBlanc in particular. (I am tempted to add that some of the worst come from France.) The transatlantic tradition continues with the superb soprano Annie Dufresne, and with the members of the American ensemble La Donna Musicale. 'The Pleasures of Love and Libation. Airs by Julie Pinel and other Parisian women' is a most enterprising disc of early eighteenth-century love songs, all written by women. The music is ravishing, some written in the highly ornamented brunette style, with much languorous swooning and imitation of lovebirds. The voices of La Donna Musicale (four female and one male) are all perfect exponents of French Baroque style and the instrumentalists make equally lovely contributions. This is a peach of a disc, which is very highly recommended

(La Donna Musicale LA07103, 1 hour 6 minutes).

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