

Eminent Dutch viola da gamba player **Nanneke Schaap**, professor at the Conservatory of Music in Milan, Italy, together with **Mariken Palmboom**, harpsichord and **Anne Legêne**, viola da gamba, two Dutch residents of the Berkshires, will be presenting a program dedicated to the music of Antoine Forqueray, le père, and Jean Babtiste Forqueray, le fils. The three musicians are old friends who studied together at the Royal Conservatory in The Hague. Together they make up **Ensemble La Silva**.

**Antoine Forqueray**, a famous figure of the French baroque, was Musician of the Chamber at the court of Louis XIV, specializing in the viola da gamba. Quoted as playing like the Devil, he stood in high esteem for his extraordinary ability on this fabulous instrument. His son, who published his father's music after his death, was a prodigy who followed in his father's footsteps, and took over his post at the court of Louis XV.

Stories and quotes about their fascinating lives, the viola da gamba, and the times, narrated by **Jeremy Beckett**, will complement the enticing soundscape of the two bass violas da gamba and harpsichord, drawing the audience into a vivid experience of the historical period and the extraordinary beauty of this music.

The **violas da gamba** played are 7 stringed bass instruments. Fretted like a guitar, and able to play full chords, this instrument has a refined, ethereal resonance, which rendered it particularly popular with the nobility. Well suited to chamber music, it fell out of use with the advent of concerts in bigger halls, and the rising popularity of the violin. The revival of early music in the 20th century brought it and its beautiful repertoire back to be enjoyed not just by the nobility.

#### **ENSEMBLE LA SILVA:**

**Nanneke Schaap** teaches viola da gamba at the Conservatory of Milan, Italy. She studied with Wieland Kuijken, receiving her soloist diploma at the Royal Conservatory in The Hague, Netherlands. Among the many groups of which she has been a member are La Chapelle Royale, Les

Arts Florissants, Capella Ducale Venezia, and Ensemble Jannequin. In Italy and the Netherlands she has organized and conducted many projects, which earned her invitations to major festivals and theatres. Besides oratorios of Handel, music of Palestrina, Monteverdi and Telemann, she was one of the first to present in Italy the St. John and St. Matthew Passions of J.S.Bach. More recent projects involved the Stabat Mater and Missa Dolorosa of Caldara, and Membra Jesu Nostri of Buxtehude. As a viola da gamba soloist Nanneke has performed with het Concertgebouw Orkest, many other Dutch orchestras, La Scala Milan, the Rome Opera, and with conductors Frans Brüggen and Peter Schreier. She has given recitals with Wieland Kuijken, Christophe Rousset, Ottavia Dantone, and many others. She produced several CD's, of which her solo CD with work of Rognoni received international acclaim. For more about Nanneke and Ensemble La Silva, and to hear excerpts of her music, visit the website: [www.ensemble-lasilva.com](http://www.ensemble-lasilva.com).

**Anne Legêne** studied cello with Jean Decroos at the Royal Conservatory in The Hague, and more recently received her Graduate Performance Diploma in Early Music from the Longy School in Cambridge, MA, where she studied viola da gamba with Jane Hershey and baroque cello with Phoebe Carrai. She performs chamber music regularly with her husband, pianist and harpsichordist Larry Wallach, and with harpsichordist Mariken Palmboom. Anne is a member of the viol consort Long and Away, and has played with baroque orchestra Foundling, The Arcadia Players, Les Inégales, Crescendo, the Berkshire Bach Society, the Harvard Choir and Harvard Baroque Chamber Orchestra, among many other groups. She conducts the chamber orchestra and teaches cello at Bard College at Simon's Rock and maintains a busy teaching practice at her home studio in Great Barrington. She also teaches at the Early Music Week at World Fellowship Center near Conway, NH.

**Mariken Palmboom** did her original harpsichord and baroque ensemble studies at the Royal Conservatories in The Hague and Antwerp,

Belgium, where her main teachers were Bob van Asperen and Jos van Immerseel. She obtained a Masters degree in Solo Performance and the First Prize with Greatest Distinction. She received a Special Award in the International Harpsichord Competition in Bruges, Belgium in 1986. She has performed many concerts in Europe and the United States, in major early Music festivals (Utrecht, Bruges and Berkeley, CA) as a soloist and continuo player with such artists as Jos van Immerseel, Frans Bruggen, Jaap Schroder, Marion Verbruggen, the Kuijken brothers, Jane Hershey, Dana Maiben, Anne Legêne and Rodrigo Tarraza. She performed at the Festival of Flanders with the Ensemble del Anima Eterna all the Bach harpsichord concertos, which were broadcasted on the Belgium radio. She also has been active in teaching, both privately and for chamber music workshops (Society of House Music in Holland, San Francisco Early Music Society and Stanford University amongst others). She currently lives and works in the Berkshires.

**PROGRAM:**

“Le Goût, La Force et La Variété”

**Antoine Forqueray le père (1672 - 1745)**

**Jean-Babtiste Forqueray, le fils (1699-1782)**

**Première Suite:** Allemande La la Borde

La Forqueray

La Cottin

La Bellemont

La Portugaise

La Couperin

**Troisième Suite:** La Ferrand

La Regente

La Du Vaucel \*

Chaconne La Morangis ou La Plissay

Intermission

**Suite for 2 violas da gamba and basso continuo:**

Allemande, Sarabande, Gavotte

**Quatrième Suite:**

La Marella

La Clement

Sarabande La D' Aubonne

La Bournonville

Ensemble La Silva

Nanneke Schaap - viola da gamba

Anne Legêne - viola da gamba

Mariken Palmboom - harpsichord

Jeremy Beckett - narrator