

**L'ORFEO BAROCKORCHESTER**  
**MICHI GAIGG**

International press reviews (extracts)

**Awarded by**

ECHO-Klassik, Diapason, Pizzicato,  
Le Monde de la Musique,  
BBC Music Magazine, Gramophone,  
Fono Forum,  
ORF/Radio Ö1



Michi Gaigg has long outgrown being one of Nikolaus Harnoncourt's best students. In profile with her L'Orfeo Barockorchester she has emerged as a congenial successor of the Concentus Musicus master. She has walked her own way as can readily be heard on this new release [*Mozart's Betulia liberata*].

**Das Orchester**

The first generation who dealt with Historical Performance Practice regarded Early Music as a speech form. When the violinist and conductor Michi Gaigg sets hand to Early Music it even materializes as a living entity.

**Neue Zürcher Zeitung**

One of the most exciting Baroque ensembles that our neighbouring country Austria can boast is the L'Orfeo Barockorchester, founded in Linz in 1996. Directed by the Baroque violinist, Michi Gaigg, this ensemble has moved into the front row of the European Early Music scene. **Crescendo**

This Austrian orchestra has gained a remarkable reputation during the last 15 years. The ensemble from Linz counts among the leading period instrument orchestras. It hasn't lost any of its enthusiasm over the years, on the contrary. **Bayerischer Rundfunk**

L'Orfeo Barockorchester play with an attractive thrust and graininess, with solos well taken and horns ringing out gloriously [...] a vivid and dramatic snapshot of this stage [*Mozart's Betulia liberata*] in the wunderkind's astonishing development.

**Gramophone**

The continuum of this ensemble emerged from years of working towards an own individual sound. In the process a strong team spirit evolved. **Musik & Theater**

The L'Orfeo Barockorchester is one of the most fascinating European ensembles in the field of Historically Informed Performance Practice.

**Sonograma Magazine (Spain)**



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## L'ORFEO BAROCKORCHESTER MICHİ GAİGG

Since its foundation at Bruckner University Linz in 1996 the **L'Orfeo Barockorchester** has evolved as one of the leading international ensembles for historically informed performance practice. L'Orfeo's concert programmes and CD recordings are characterized by a synthesis of well-known repertoire and pioneer work. Its repertoire reaches from French Baroque suites (a special favourite of L'Orfeo's) and symphonies from the Sturm and Drang to music from the Classical period and early Romantics.

Ever so often L'Orfeo can be heard and seen as an **opera orchestra**, most recently with *Pigmalion & Anacréon*, two Actes de ballet by Jean-Philippe Rameau, *Betulia liberata*, an Azione sacra by W. A. Mozart, two settings of the Orpheus myth by Christoph Willibald Gluck and Georg Philipp Telemann, the latter's *Miriways*, Joseph Haydn's *Die wüste Insel* (The desert Island), *Zaide* by Mozart, Georg Anton Benda's *Romeo und Julie* or a trilogy of early operas by Gioachino Rossini (e.g. *La scala di seta*). Michi Gaigg and the L'Orfeo Barockorchester grab the opportunity, together with Director Benjamin Schad and the Swedish tenor Anders J. Dahlin, to dedicate a "concertdance" to one of the most spectacular French personalities, the haute-contre Pierre de Jélyotte (including Suites and Arias by Jean-Philippe Rameau and contemporary Dance).

L'Orfeo has presented some world premieres and has been awarded international prizes for its recordings by Diapason, Gramophone, BBC Music Magazine, Pizzicato ("Supersonic Award"), Le Monde de la Musique, Fono Forum, Radio Österreich 1 ("Pasticcio Prize") as well as the German Music Award "Echo Klassik".

A high artistic level, colourful playing and an immense sensitivity for sound are aspects confirmed by critics and audiences time and again. Team spirit and a close identification with founder and leader Michi Gaigg form the basis for its artistic success.

The most important festivals and venues in recent times have been Lucerne Festival, Beethovenfest Bonn, Salzburg Festival, Innsbrucker Festwochen der Alten Musik, Tage Alter Musik Regensburg, Telemann-Festtage Magdeburg, Schwetzingen SWR Festspiele, Festspiele Europäische Wochen Passau, Intern. Haydn Festival Eisenstadt, Theater an der Wien, Brucknerhaus Linz, Festspielhaus Baden-Baden, Philharmonie Cologne, Théâtre de Poissy, Theater an der Rott, Palau de la Música Catalana, Auditorio Baluarte Pamplona, Gala Concert Vatican City (Sixtine Chapel) et al.

**Opera 2015:** Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's "Die verstellte Gärtnerin" (Singspiel version of *La Finta Giardiniera* KV 196)

### Latest CD Releases 2014:

G. Ph. Telemann: *Miriways*, Singspiel in three acts, TVWV: 21:24 (cpo)

New edition: J.-F. Rebel: Les Élémens & J.-Ph. Rameau: Suite from *Castor et Pollux* (cpo)

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## Michi Gaigg

The Austrian conductor and leader of the orchestra, Michi Gaigg, was deeply inspired as a student by the lectures given by Nikolaus Harnoncourt at the Salzburg Mozarteum.

After completing her violin studies there she commenced learning to play the Baroque violin and studied with Ingrid Seifert and Sigiswald Kuijken. Michi Gaigg accumulated valuable experience in internationally well-known ensembles such as London Baroque and with conductors such as Frans Brüggen, Alan Curtis, Christopher Hogwood, René Jacobs, Ton Koopman and Hermann Max.

In 1996 she founded the **L'Orfeo Barockorchester** together with the recorder and oboe player Carin van Heerden. Under Michi Gaigg's direction the orchestra has established itself as one of the leading ensembles in historically informed performance practice and has repeatedly been awarded various prizes for its CD recordings.

Opera productions are becoming increasingly important in Michi Gaigg's work. Recently staged works are: Handel's first opera *Almira*, *Queen of Castille*, Georg Philipp Telemann's *Orpheus* and *Miriways*, Gluck's *Orpheus & Eurydike*, Rameau's Actes de ballet *Pigmalion* and *Anacréon*, *Zaide* and *Betulia liberata* by W. A. Mozart, *Romeo und Julie* by Georg Anton Benda, Joseph Haydn's *The desert Insel* and a trilogy of early operas by Gioachino Rossini (*Il signor Bruschino*, *La scala di seta* und *La cambiale di matrimonio*).

Michi Gaigg has been teaching at the Institute for Early Music at the Anton Bruckner Private University in Linz since 1994. In 2003 she took on the position of artistic director of the *donauFESTWOCHE* im Strudengau, a festival for Early and Contemporary music, and received two cultural awards by the province of Upper Austria.

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## CD-RECORDINGS

L'ORFEO BAROCKORCHESTER · MICHI GAIGG

26 Recordings: 1997-2014

### Latest Releases 2014

**Cpo (new edition)**

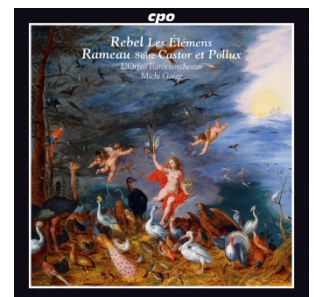
**Jean-Fery Rebel (1666-1747)**

***Les Eléments***, Simphonie nouvelle

**Jean-Philippe Rameau (1683-1764)**

Suite from ***Castor et Pollux***

Recommended by **BBC Radio - Building a Library**, **Diapason**, **Klassik heute**, **Crescendo**, **ORF Ö1** and several German broadcasting stations



**Cpo & Deutschlandradio Kultur · World premiere recording · LIVE**

**Georg Philipp Telemann (1681-1767)**

***Miriways***

Singspiel in three acts TVWV 21:24 · Libretto by Johann Samuel Müller

Soloists: Markus Volpert, Ulrike Hofbauer, Julie Martin du Theil,

Gabriele Hierdeis, Stefan Zenkl, Ida Aldrian, Susanne Drexler, Ilja Werger

Recommend by **ORF Ö1 (Pasticcio Preis)**, **Klassik.com**, **Hessischer Rundfunk**

