The English-Tobin Duo

Now based in Lycoming County, PA, Orchestra of the Southern Finger Lakes violist Ashley English and violist/Baroque violinist John Paul Tobin met in 2013 while working together as studio, touring, and television broadcast musicians in Los Angeles, CA. As the English-Tobin Duo, they have performed Historically-Informed interpretations of music for violas and violins since 2015. A shared love of inherent expressive intensity of Early Music, coupled with the ability to exploit the full range of tonal colors made available by the use of carefully-curated authentic instruments—violas and violins which are, at the same time, tonally different, yet complimentary—allow the English-Tobin Duo to present programming designed to transport the listener back to a time when musical tastes and affectations were novel and refined, meaningful and transcendent.

In addition to the Orchestra of the Southern Finger Lakes, Ashely and John Paul serve in leadership roles as Concertmaster, Principal Violist, Assistant Principal Viola, and Soloists in the region’s finest ensembles, such as the Williamsport Chamber Players, Pennsylvania Chamber Orchestra, Mansfield Opera Theatre, Susquehanna Valley Chorale, Cantata Singers, and the daKah Hip Hop Orchestra in Los Angeles.

John Paul Tobin teaches Viola and Baroque Violin/Viola at Lycoming College in Williamsport, PA, where he also serves as the Conductor of the Lycoming College String Ensemble, Music Director of the Young Artist Baroque Orchestra, and Assistant Conductor of the Lycoming College Community Orchestra. Ashley English maintains a robust studio of Traditional and Kaleidoscope violin and viola students at St. John’s School of the Arts in Williamsport, PA, and privately around the region.

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Program

I. Middle/Late—Renaissance

Orlande de Lassus (ca. 1530-1594)
  Three Motets
  I. Beatus vir qui in sapientia morabitur
  II. Beatus homo qui invenit sapientiam
  III. Oculus non vidit

Giovanni Paolo Cima (ca. 1570-1622)
  Bicinium No. 34

Orazio Vecchi (ca. 1550-1605)
  Bicinium No. 21

Pierre Certon (ca. 1510-1572)
  Contentez vous

Annibale Zucaro (flor. 1603-1609)
  Ricercar I from Ricercate a due voci

II. Transitional Period & Late Classical

Wilhelm Friedemann Bach (ca. 1710-1784)
  Dueto for Two Violas in G Major, F. 61
    I. Allegro
    II. Lamento
    III. Presto

Johann Franz Xaver Sterkel (ca. 1750-1817)
  Duo for Violin and Viola in D Major, StVW 203, No. 1
    I. Andante
    II. [without indication]

Three Motets—Orlande de Lassus

Scriptural Texts

Beatus vir qui in sapientia morabitur,
et qui in justitia meditabitur
et in sensu cogitabit circumspetionem Dei.

Blessed is the man who shall continue in wisdom,
And who shall meditate in his justice,
And in his mind shall think of the all-seeing eye of God.

Beatus homo qui invenit sapientiam
et qui affluit prudentia:
Melior est acquisitio eius negotiatione argenti,
Et auri prum et purissimi.

Blessed is the man who finds wisdom,
And who advances to prudence:
Her acquisition is better than trading in silver,
and [her fruit is better] than the first and purest gold.

Oculus non vidit, nec auris audivit,
nec in cor hominis ascendit,
quae perparavit Deus his, qui diligent illum.

Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard,
 neither have entered into the heart of man
The things which God hath prepared for them that love Him.

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