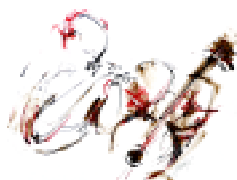


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CONVERSA



PASCAL BOURNET - LYDIE BARRANCOS

Turlough O'Carolan's Ireland

A work of great sensibility and expertly done. Trad'Mag

*A captivating tribute to Turlough O'Carolan,
one of the last Irish bards. Télérama fff*



In an age of gloom for Ireland, Carolan brought something new to the music of his country, a kind of mischievous joy which seemed to be lacking before, with here and there some Italian sunshine. Thanks to him, the names of fair women and gallant men, now long dead, are still alive in the charm and grace of his melodies.

M-L.B

O'Carolan was able to nourish - without betraying- his traditional Gaelic culture with the passion he felt for the Baroque music of his time, Vivaldi, Corelli and Geminiani being his favorite composers. Pascal Bournet, a connoisseur of the Celtic bard and as attentive as he is rigorous, is an ideal guide for this original visit.

Robert Prudon (Mandala)

Turlough O'Carolan

Harper, Composer, Poet, Singer

Born Nobber 1670 Died Alderford 1738

Turlough O'Carolan created his own style between the harpers and the Italian baroque composers' tradition. He used to say how charmed he was by Antonio Vivaldi and how delighted he was by Arcangelo Corelli. We know how much he admired the violonist and composer Francesco Geminiani he met in Dublin at the end of his life. It would seem that during this meeting he composed his famous "*Carolan's concerto*" (MAN 4966).



It explains that in many compositions we find sequences, imitations or a jig in coda in the style of the Italian masters but close to the traditional Gaelic style, Carolan's initial training to which he pays tribute with his last creation "*Farewell to Music*" (MAN 4966).

In accordance with the Irish traditional music, those pieces come down in the form of simple melodic lines devoided of any indication as to the harmonisation or handling of the bass and we do not have any reliable record on how the composer or his fellow harpers handled those pieces at the time.

I have therefore taken the freedom to enlight one or the other side by the harmonisation and the choice of instrumentation, by choosing a sonority between traditional music and baroque music, between Ireland and Italy.

For a century, a movement of writers, musicians and intellectuals worked successfully together to give back to the Gaelic culture and language its place in Ireland. The Celtic music has now found its strength and radiance in Irish hearts but also in the entire world.

That is why it seemed essential to me to record in addition to O'Carolan themes (MAN 5026), two traditional dances that cannot be ignored: the Reel, a dance from distant nordic origins, and the most Irish dance: The Jig

Pascal Bournet

Discographie :

3 CDs by Mandala /Harmonia Mundi



Listening, information and reviews :

www.pascalbournet.info

(« Conversa » and « News »)

Reviews



« Solace » Pascal Bournet

A generous, mature and accomplished musician who skillfully masters his instrument and grants music all the space it needs to express itself. An exceptional sound recording.

Bob Bonastre **Guitarist Acoustic**
Fevrier 2005

Carolan the Irish Bard June 2000

★★★★★ Brilliant CD (Amazon)

Carolan the Irish Bard

"Here, the pieces really sound Irish for once. Fabulous! I was beginning to wonder whether anyone could actually do it properly. [...] Players would have to be approaching grade 8 to really do these arrangements justice, but believe me, they are really worth the effort."

Chris Dumigan - **Classical Guitar** - May 2001

« Solace »

Pascal Bournet enchants the day and is in tune with the brilliance of the night. A musician of splendour who kindles sounds. We are in the company of the most and the best.

Daniel Leduc **Le Mag** Fevrier 2004

Carolan the Irish Bard

A captivating tribute to Turlough O'Carolan, one of the last Irish bards by the guitarist Pascal Bournet. Melancholy and also lively Irish ballads with baroque and traditional echoes.

Anne-Marie Paquette
Télérama **ffff**

1CD Mandala MAN 4956-Distr. Harmonia Mundi

Spirit of Ireland

Pascal Bournet has succeeded admirably in his presentation here of some of Carolan's finest tunes performed by four first-rate musicians who are obviously enjoying themselves with this music.
Steve Marsh - **Classical Guitar June** Septembre 2003

Avec "Solace", Pascal Bournet nous offre un magistral hommage O'Carolan à travers 15 compositions originales. Un véritable enchantement que ces créations d'une remarquable vivacité.

Dominique Le Guichaoua - **Trad'Mag** N°95

O'Carolan, the Irish Bard

In this record, the excellent guitarist Pascal Bournet proposes twenty themes he has arranged and harmonized himself. Delicate melodies on a skilful but discreet harmonization.

Dominique Le Guichaoua - **Trad'Mag** N°73

Spirit of Ireland

A wonderful CD devoted to O'Carolan's themes Pascal Bournet has arranged and harmonized. A real marvel!

Pascal Jaugeon **Armor Magazine**

The pieces themselves are all little gems – O'Carolan was one of musical history's real tune-smiths – and Bournet has done a fine job indeed in his harmonisations.

Steve Marsh **Classical Guitar June** 2002

Particularly fines exemples of capturing exactly the right amount of Irishness.

Chris Dumigan - **Classical Guitar** -
February 2001

Concert O'Carolan - Festival en Albret

A virtuoso who fully masters his instrument and knows how to use its possibilities and transcend its difficulty. Jacques Casterede