



barbican

BETRAYAL: A POLYPHONIC CRIME DRAMA FROM I FAGIOLINI, JOHN LA BOUCHARDIÈRE AND THE BARBICAN

In May 2015, ten years since *The Full Monteverdi* (described by The Times as “one of the most surprising music-theatre hits of the decade”), I Fagiolini and director John La Bouchardière present their long-awaited follow-up - ***Betrayal: a polyphonic crime drama***, commissioned by the Barbican Centre.

This new piece of immersive music theatre - a murder mystery experience - is set to the unsettling music of Renaissance composer Carlo Gesualdo and fuses unaccompanied singing with contemporary dance in hidden corners of real-life urban locations. *Betrayal's* world première, presented by the Barbican in association with Village Underground will be at Village Underground in Shoreditch on Wednesday 13 May, with further performances there on 14 and 15 May; at Cambridge Junction as part of Cambridge Early Music on 20, 21 and 22 May; and in a multi-storey car park at Ageas Salisbury International Arts Festival on 3, 4 and 5 June 2015.

Commenting on the commission, Huw Humphreys, Barbican Head of Music, said: “The Barbican and I Fagiolini share a commitment to exploring adventurous ways of presenting classical music to new audiences. We’re delighted to build on the success of projects like *How like an Angel* in pioneering the innovative presentation of early music in radical, new and cross-artform ways. The warehouse environment of Village Underground is perfect for this site-specific re-imagining of Gesualdo’s music as a gritty crime drama.”

Music director Robert Hollingworth said: “*The Full Monteverdi* is a tough act to follow, so we’ve taken time with John La Bouchardière to develop our next project together. Gesualdo’s music holds a fascination for us both: polyphony built on shifting harmonic sands, by far and away the most extreme example of a school of composers that depicted poetic images by extreme gestures. More than 400 years after it was written, it still surprises and shocks. And just as norms only partly apply with Gesualdo’s music, I hope that pre-conceived rules and ideas that an audience may have about madrigals and motets will be re-thought after this production too.”

Director, John La Bouchardière said: “We’re approaching Gesualdo’s strange and agonizing harmonies through the kind of thinking that seems to have plagued his life. I’ve taken some of his darkest and most extreme madrigals, and punctuated them with motets and the shadowy ‘Tenebrae’ for Holy Week to form the structure of a contemporary crime drama. As in *The Full Monteverdi*, the audience will be immersed in the music and action, but this time they’ll be in murky warehouses and car parks, and be able to follow the performers around. The details of the stories will be devised in rehearsals. As the singers and dancers uncover terrible truths, they’ll draw the audience into their harrowing conflicts and, we hope, reveal a disturbing logic to Gesualdo’s music.”

The singers will be Kirsty Hopkins, Ciara Hendrick, Martha McLorinan, Matthew Long, Greg Skidmore and Jimmy Holliday.

The dancers are Eleesha Drennan, Merry Holden, Luke Murphy, Simon Palmer, Łukasz Przytarski and Rebecca Rosier.

Box Offices:

LONDON – commissioned by the Barbican

Village Underground, 54 Holywell Lane, London EC2

www.barbican.org.uk

Box Office Tel: 020 7638 8891

Wednesday, 13 May – 2100

Thursday, 14 May – 2100

Friday, 15 May – 2030 and 2300

Tickets cost £25 + booking fee

CAMBRIDGE – promoted by Cambridge Early Music

Cambridge Junction (J1), Clifton Way, Cambridge CB1 7GX

www.junction.co.uk

Box Office Tel: 01223 511 511

Wednesday, 20 May at 8pm

Thursday, 21 May at 8pm

Friday, 22 May 7.30pm and 9.30pm

Tickets cost £25 (£20 concession) + £1 booking fee

SALISBURY – promoted by Ageas Salisbury International Arts Festival

The Maltings Car Park, Salisbury, SP1 1BD

www.salisburyfestival.co.uk

Box Office Tel: 0845 241 9651

Wednesday 3 June at 8pm

Thursday 4 June at 8pm

Friday 5 June at 7pm and 10pm.

Tickets cost £18 + booking fee.

Ends

For further information and blog: <http://www.ifagiolini.com/betrayal/>

For further press information:

Kate Gedge – I Fagiolini – T: 01874 730 300 M: 07754 149 577

Eleanor Nimmo - Barbican - T: 020 7382 6196



Betrayal: a polyphonic crime drama



@ifagiolini

Note to Editors:

I Fagiolini is a British solo-voice ensemble specializing in Renaissance and contemporary music. It has released 19 CDs and 3DVDs including the world première recording of the Striggio 40-part mass which won the Gramophone and Diapason early music awards in 2011. Robert Hollingworth has directed the group since he founded it as a student at Oxford University in 1986. He now teaches music at the University of York. Visit www.percius.co.uk for more information.

John La Bouchardière has directed opera across the UK, Europe and the USA. A former chorister at Magdalen College, Oxford and staff director at English National Opera, his recent productions include Lera Auerbach's *The Blind* for Lincoln Center Festival, New York, and John Adams' *El Niño* for Spoleto Festival USA, South Carolina.

The Barbican, a world-class arts and learning organisation, pushes the boundaries of all major art forms including dance, film, music, theatre and visual arts. Its creative learning programme further underpins everything it does. Over 1.5 million people pass through the Barbican's doors annually, hundreds of artists and performers are featured, and more than 300 staff work onsite. The architecturally renowned centre opened in 1982 and comprises the Barbican Hall, the Barbican Theatre, the Pit, Cinemas One, Two and Three, Barbican Art Gallery, a second gallery *The Curve*, foyers and public spaces, a library, Lakeside Terrace, a glasshouse conservatory, conference facilities and three restaurants. The City of London Corporation is the founder and principal funder of the Barbican Centre.

The Barbican is home to Resident Orchestra, London Symphony Orchestra; Associate Orchestra, BBC Symphony Orchestra; Associate Ensembles the Academy of Ancient Music and Britten Sinfonia, and Associate Producer Serious. Our Artistic Associates include Boy Blue Entertainment, Cheek by Jowl and Michael Clark Company. International Associates are Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra of Amsterdam, New York Philharmonic, Los Angeles Philharmonic, Gewandhaus Orchestra Leipzig and Jazz at Lincoln Center.

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