PAUL O’DESTTE, lute
May 22, 2020 | 7:00 PM CDT | Live Stream Concert

6:35 PM pre-concert talk with Paul O’Dette and Lawrence Zbikowski, UChicago Professor of Music

PROGRAM

Lost is my Liberty

Anonymous

Packington’s Pound
I cannot keep my wife at home
Bonny sweet boy
Up Tails All
Lost is my Liberty
Grimstock

John Dowland
(1563–1626)

A Fancy P5
A Pavin
The King of Denmark’s Galliard
A Fancy P6

from the Rowallan Lute Book
of Sir William Mure,
Rowallan Castle, Scotland (1620)

I never knew I loved thee
Corne Yards
The Gypsies Lilt
A Scots Tune
Another Scots Tune

Anthony Holborne
(ca. 1560–1602)

Fantasia
Il Nodo di Gordio
As it fell on a holy day

John Dowland

The Earl of Essex, his Galliard
Lachrimae
The Frog Galliard
Fantasie P1a
PAUL O’DETTE

One of the most influential figures in his field, lutenist Paul O’Dette has helped define the technical and stylistic standards to which twenty-first-century performers of early music aspire. In doing so, he has helped infuse the performance practice movement with a perfect combination of historical awareness, idiomatic accuracy, and ambitious self-expression. His performances at the major international festivals in Boston, Vienna, London, Paris, Amsterdam, Berlin, Prague, Florence, Geneva, Barcelona, Tokyo, Moscow, Melbourne, Los Angeles, Vancouver, Antwerp, Bremen, Dresden, Copenhagen, Oslo, and several others, have often been singled out as the highlight of those events.

O’Dette’s discography of more than 145 recordings has earned him two Grammy awards, eight Grammy nominations, and numerous other international record awards. His five-CD set for harmonia mundi USA, entitled The Complete Lute Music of John Dowland, was awarded the prestigious Diapason d’Or de l’année and was selected as the “Best Solo Lute Recording of Dowland” by BBC Radio 3. The Bachelor’s Delight: Lute Music of Daniel Bacheler was nominated for a Grammy award in 2006 in the category “Best Solo Instrumental Recording.”

O’Dette is also active as a conductor of baroque operas. His recording of Charpentier’s La Descente d’Orphée aux Enfers with Stephen Stubbs and the Boston Early Music Festival Chamber Ensemble won a 2014 Grammy award for “Best Opera Recording,” as well as an Echo Klassik Award in the same category. In 1997, he directed performances of Luigi Rossi’s L’Orfeo at Tanglewood, the Boston Early Music Festival, and the Drottningholm Court Theatre in Sweden with Stephen Stubbs. Since 1999, they have codirected performances of Cavalli’s Ercole Amante at the Boston Early Music Festival, Tanglewood, and the Utrecht Early Music Festival; Provenzale’s La Stellidaura Vendicata at the Vadstena Academy in Sweden; Monteverdi’s Orfeo and L’Incoronazione di Poppea for Festival Vancouver; Monteverdi’s Poppea, Handel’s Almira, and Pergolesi’s La Serva Padrona and Livietta e Tracollo for the Boston Early Music Festival, and many others. Five of their opera recordings have been nominated for Grammy awards, including Conradi’s Ariadne (Hamburg, 1691) as “Best Opera Recording of 2005,” Lully’s Thésée in 2007 and Psyché in 2008, La Descente d’Orphée aux Enfers in 2014, and Agostino Steffani’s Niobe in 2015. Their recording of Steffani’s Niobe was awarded a Diapason d’Or de l’année, an Echo Klassik Award, and the prestigious Annual Award from the German Record Critics’ Awards. O’Dette has guest directed numerous baroque orchestras and opera productions on both sides of the Atlantic.

In addition to his activities as a performer, O’Dette is an avid researcher, having worked extensively on the performance and sources of seventeenth-century Italian and English solo song, continuo practices, and lute music. He has published numerous articles on issues of historical performance practice and coauthored the entry on John Dowland in the New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians.

O’Dette is professor of lute and the director of early music at the Eastman School of Music and artistic director of the Boston Early Music Festival. He performs on an eight-course lute by Paul Thomson, Bristol, 1991, after Vendelio Venere (1582).