



Early music concerts in costume



Ensemble Marquise presents early music concerts in full Rococo costume on period instruments. The Ensemble was founded in 2004 by the sopran singer-couple, László Blaskovics and Judit Felszeghy. Since that time we've been working and performing together with our professional musicians, so the ensemble is very much like a musical family. Our repertoire is very broad, from early Baroque composers right through to Mozart. Since 2004 we have performed more than 170 amazing and unique concerts; we appeared in prestigious festivals, concert halls and castles in Hungary and throughout Europe.

In Hungary we are the regular ensemble of the Baroque Theatre in Royal Palace of Gödöllő.

In our concerts we perform arias and duets for two sopranos with baroque chamber accompaniment – harpsichord, cello and baroque recorder - and you can also hear instrumental pieces - solos and trios. The harmonic combination of a male soprano and a coloratura soprano voices provides a beautifully refined sound, and gives a unique musical experience. Our Master of Ceremonies introduces the pieces with poems and narrative texts, sets the scene and also takes part in the acting.

The Marquise programmes are built around varied themes, and each one has its own story. Our programmes are pasticcios, so that, gems of the baroque music “assembled” from works by different composers, loosely woven together to a story. We believe that the whole experience should combine visual, dramatic and musical elements. The concerts evoke the atmosphere of the 17-18 century with period dress, poise, deportment and scenic accessories inspired by paintings of that era to complement and dramatize the musical experience.

Our aim is to bring the wonderful music and style of the Baroque era closer to the audience of the 21st century. To show an authentic picture, we've been studying the way of life in the 17-18 century, and our costumes were inspired, patterned and created after original paintings. We believe that though the world has changed a lot, the personal emotions and thoughts remained the same through centuries, so on the wings of the music they are enjoyable and perceivable today as well.



Marquise Music:

The Marquise repertoire is very broad, from early Baroque composers right through to Mozart, including: Monteverdi, Handel, Vivaldi, J.S. Bach, Purcell, Couperin, Telemann, Pergolesi, Haydn, Mozart. The pieces are performed on period instruments, in original language.

Ensemble Marquise:

Judit Felszeghy – coloratura soprano
 Laszlo Blaskovics – male soprano
 Marta Gal– harpsichord
 Katalin Kallay – recorder
 Agnes Kallay – cello
 Denes Kocsis or Michael Ryan or Christian Heisz
 – master of ceremonies (actor)





Members:



Judit Felszeghy, coloratura soprano, who also plays piano and recorder, was trained in the Kodály-method, which is a special approach to music education developed in Hungary in 20th century by Zoltan Kodaly. She has sang in prominent youth choirs and was a soloist in small groups, always feeling most at home with mediaeval, renaissance, baroque and classical repertoire. In 2003, Judit graduated in singing at the Leo Weiner College of Music in Budapest with distinction. She studied with famous coloratura sopranos: Prof. Sylvia Geszty, Prof. Krisztina Laki and Prof. Csilla Ötvös in Vienna and in Budapest. In England she feels very lucky to have regular lessons with one of her singing idols, Dame Emma Kirkby. Judit's special vocal talent is that she can sing extraordinarily fast, pearl-like

coloraturas, which is particularly suitable for performing baroque arias which require virtuoso skills. Besides music she's highly interested in linguistics. In 2002 she graduated from ELTE University in Budapest where she studied Russian philology. With her singing partner, László Blaskovics, she founded Ensemble Marquise in 2004. They have been living in the UK since 2009, where Judit is the soloist of Fiori Musicali early music group, she sings solos for choral societies, teaches singing at the Northamptonshire Music and Performing Arts Trust, and she is the proud leader of JuditSingers and Whilton Warblers community choirs.

Born in Budapest, **László Blaskovics** is one of the small company of male singers specialising in the soprano register. He studied with Prof. Sylvia Geszty, Prof. Krisztina Laki and Prof. Csilla Ötvös in Vienna and Budapest. In 2002, László won a special prize in the 8th „Sylvia Geszty” International Coloratura Singing Contest in 2002, in Murcia, Spain. His extraordinary voice is a curiosity, its exceptional range enabling him to perform the male soprano repertoire which was so popular during the baroque period. László is the leader, founder and designer of Ensemble Marquise. He designs the costumes, writes the narrative texts, plans the concert programmes and organizes the concerts. “László has an extraordinary soprano voice, evoking the authentic sound of baroque opera.” Since 2009 he is the soloist of the English early music ensemble, Fiori Musicali as well, and he teaches singing at Budapest in Hungary.





Katalin Kallay studied viola at the Leó Weiner Music College with Sándor Papp, and recorder with László Czidra, then she continued her studies as a musicologist at the Franz Liszt Academy of Music. In the meantime she studied early music and recorder with László Lőrincz at Szeged University. She has attended at master classes by Peter Holtslag, Prehoffer Gábor and Anneke Boeke. Katalin Kállay is a member of several early music ensembles such as Camerata Hungarica, Sebastian Consort, Marquise, Musica Profana, Savaria Baroque Orchestra, Tercina, and she has performed as a guest musician in London, Innsbruck, Trier, Nicosia, Venice. She is a regular guest at prestigious

international music festivals: Budapest Spring Festival, Gödöllő Spring Festival, Budapest Bach Week, Early Music Festival in Csíkszereda, Börzsöny Baroque Festival, Zemplén Festival, Valley of Arts Festival. She has given regular concerts in the most significant music halls of Budapest such as Big Concert Hall of Academy of Music, Old Academy of Music, Palace of Arts and Festival Theatre. Currently she teaches recorder and chamber music at the Leó Weiner Music College and gives master classes at the Renaissance and Baroque Week in Győr. She also writes music reviews and concert guides for the Palace of Arts, the Muzsika and the Műpamagazine.



Agnes Kallay graduated at the Franz Liszt Academy of Music, Budapest in 2006. In the following year she earned DAAD scholarship and moved to Cologne (Germany) to study under Maria Kliegel at the Hochschule für Musik. In 2008 she continued her studies with Nick Tzavaras and the Shanghai Quartet at Montclair State University (USA). In 2013 she completed her doctoral studies with Colin Carr at Stony Brook University (USA). In 2004 she won the Alpe Adria International Violoncello Competition in Gorizia, Italy. In 2007 she placed first at the Beethoven Chamber Music

Competition, London, UK. In 2010 she was selected among the best 13 cellist at the 5th Unisa International String competition in South Africa. In 2010, 2011 and 2012 she three times won the Ackerman Chamber Music prize at Stony Brook University. In 2011 she was qualified for the final round with her flute trio at Coleman Chamber Music Competition, in Los Angeles. In 2013 with her piano trio, Trio Artica, she received Special Recognition at Plowman Chamber Music Competition in Columbia, Missouri. As a baroque cellist, she performs with Camerata Hungarica, Mandel Quartet, Excanto and Marquise early music ensembles. She has given master classes at Renaissance and Baroque Week in Győr (Hungary), and at Silicon Valley Music Festival in California. From September of 2013 she has become a professor at the Bela Bartok Conservatory and at the Franz Liszt Academy in Budapest.

The pianist and harpsichordist **Marta Gal** graduated from the Liszt Ferenc Academy of Music in Budapest, and then studied chamber music and song accompaniment at the Franz Liszt Hochschule, Weimar. She has been teaching at the Franz Liszt Academy of Music in Budapest since 1975. She teaches at the Csepel Music Conservatory and at Continuo music school as well. She acquired her mastery of the historically authentic performance of early music at the harpsichord and fortepiano master classes of Kenneth Gilbert and Jos van Immerseel in Antwerp. Marta Gal is a member of several chamber ensembles such as Marquise, Capella Savaria, Instrumenta Historica, and also works with Ensemble Grazioso, directed by Zoltán Kocsis. She has worked for many years as an accompanist in Hungarian and international competitions and master classes, e.g. in Weimar Master Classes.





The actor and musical singer, **Denes Kocsis** acts in the Operetta and Musical Theater in Budapest.. He is currently performing Romeo in Romeo and Juliet, Chris in Miss Saigon, Mozart in Mozart, Rudolf in Elisabeth and in other current shows. In the years of his drama studies, he acted Joe and Nick in Fame; Maugli and Sir Kan in Jungle Book; Kenicky in Grease and Georg in Spring Awakening. On the screen he appeared in TV series, films and talent shows, such as the Hungarian X-factor, Csillag Születik – ‘Hungary’s Got Talent’ and Megastar. Dénes is the Master of Ceremonies-Actor of Ensemble Marquise since 2005. He acted in several baroque drama pieces on stage like Master Pathelin and La Fontaine Tales.

The young actor and musical singer **Michael Ryan** was born in Wellinborough in 1994. However he always wanted to be an actor and musical singer. In the secondary school he played in a lot of shows in youth drama companies. He played main roles such as shows like: High School Musical, Grease, Troilus and Cressida, Hairspray, Spring Awakening and Sweeney Todd. He is currently study at AADA (American Academy of Drama Arts) in Los Angeles. Michael Ryan is the master of ceremonies of Marquise Ensemble since 2013.



Christian Heisz was born in Budapest into a catholic family in 1991. However he always wanted to be a vet, his mother took him to a casting where the six years old Christian had been chosen to a little role in a big theatre, where he got the chance to play with famous and talented actors. This experience led the boy to the ‘academy of young talents’, where he could spread his wings, and finally he became the lead child actor in many theatres in Budapest. In 1999 he had been chosen to do the Hungarian voice of Christopher Robin in Winnie the Pooh movies (singing parts). At this point he started to work as a voice actor, and featured in great movies, just like in the Harry Potter, Spy Kids, Hannah Montana, High School Musical, and other hundreds of movies. Finally after graduation, he had become an actor, but still he was working as a voice actor, and began his new studies as an IT System Engineer. In 2012 he had become protestant, and got married to a protestant pastor, Flora. Christian is a massive short film fanatic, if he has the time, he is directing his own short films. For now he won five bigger awards for his films in Budapest. Nowadays he is singing in musicals in Germany, Austria, Hungary, and Switzerland, and beside he studies in Budapest and London.



Marquise - Picture:

We believe that the whole experience should combine visual, dramatic and musical elements. The concerts evoke the atmosphere of the 17-18 century with period dress, deportment and scenic accessories inspired by paintings of that era to complement and dramatize the musical experience.

Our 11 costumes are designed and created by Laszlo Blaskovics. They were inspired and patterned after paintings of the 18th century.

We pay attention to details.



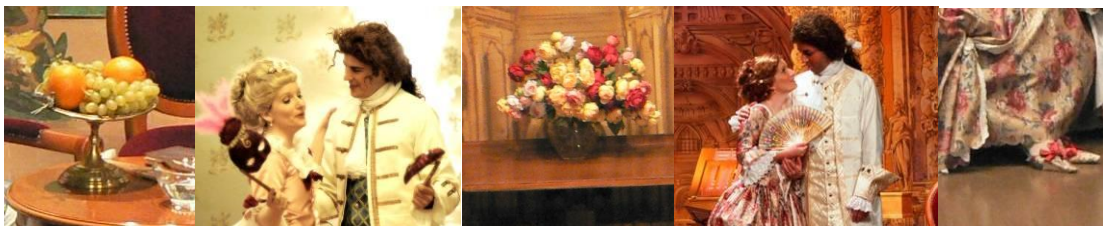
In our concerts we not only sing, but we also act.



Costumes inspired by paintings:



Essential accessories: wigs, masques, fans, roses.



We can create a beautiful interior on any stage with our own accessories.

Marquise concert programmes:

The Marquise programmes are built around different themes, so each one has its own story. Our Master of Ceremonies – a young actor, Dénes Kocsis – leads the concert, sets the scene and also takes part in the acting. He introduces the pieces with poems and narrative texts in English, German or Hungarian.

We offer the following concert programmes in 30-, 60- or 90-minute versions.

We are happy to offer programmes tailored to meet your special requirements.



Rococo Salon

Scenes from life of a baroque salon spiced with intrigue and love. The most beautiful arias, duets and instrumental pieces by Handel, Vivaldi, Monteverdi and other baroque composers. The concert evokes the atmosphere of the 17-18 century with period dress, scenic accessories, acting and narration to complement and dramatize the musical experience, and making the performance unforgettable and extremely enjoyable.

Rococo Thoughts

Discover Rococo themes like hoopskirts and fans, love and courting, enjoyment of exotic food and wine, pleasures of life, through music and poems from the 18th century with a touch of lightness and a drop of sensuality. On the programme: the most beautiful arias, duets and instrumental pieces by Handel, Vivaldi, Monteverdi, Purcell and other Baroque and Rococo composers along with poems by Robert Burns and other poets.

The Secret Language of The Fans

The Marquise Ensemble presents you with a programme, which reveals the secret forgotten language of fans along with music, poems, acting and love. The music programme includes composers such as: Handel, Monteverdi, Couperin, Bach, Vivaldi and other famous composers. In the Baroque era, the fan became an ideal instrument of communication in an age on which freedom of speech for women was restricted. The main gestures and their respective meanings that together made up what was known as “the language of the fan”. It was seen especially in the Spanish, French and English courts where it became very common.

Here are a few examples:

To hold the fan with the right hand in front of the face

= Follow me.

To move it with the left hand = They are watching us.

To hold it closed = Do you love me?

The Cheer of The Baroque

In this programme we would like to show you the similar features and aspects between early music and folk music by taking a musical journey throughout Europe. The programme consists of a selection of special Hungarian music as well: music from the Vietoris codex and the Apponyi Manuscript, the so-called 'flower songs' which are Hungarian early Baroque songs, and, traditional songs from Hungary and other countries of Europe.

Baroque journey

A marvellous journey through the age of the Baroque music using your imagination and senses. With this programme we would like to take you across 17th -18th century musical Europe by performing a selection of the most beautiful baroque pieces.

Charpentier Four Seasons & Handel Arcadian Duets

The concert programme is built around rare gems of baroque music: Marc-Antoine Charpentier's four motets, the Four seasons, and Georg Freidric Handel's Arcadian Duets which is a wonderful selection of Handel's Italian chamber duets. Enjoy these wonderful duets in a unique way, performed by a male soprano and a coloratura soprano. The lyrics of the four motets are passages from the biblical Song of Songs, while the texts of the Arcadian duets portray the effects of love on the human life and soul. During the concert our Master of Ceremonies–Actor performs these sensual and passionate biblical texts together with poems from the 18th century.

Venetian Baroque Christmas

The concert represents the Magic of Christmas with wonderful pieces of the baroque music and with traditional and cheerful songs in the scene of a Venetian Christmas ball.

Mozart Salon

All themes of the selected Mozart songs, arias and duets are different kinds of love.
“You who know what love is, ladies, see if I have it in my heart.”

Visit at The Sunking

French Salon

The programme is a beautiful selection of French baroque music from the age of Louis the XIV: vocal and instrumental pieces by Rameau, Lully, Couperin, Daquin, Charpentier and other French baroque composers. With storytelling narration we introduce the French baroque music in an imaginative and entertaining way.



Marquise references:

Since 2004 we have staged more than 170 amazing and unique concerts. We have appeared in festivals across Europe, and performed in some of England's finest houses, including Boughton House.

Marquise is the regular ensemble of the Baroque Theatre in Royal Palace of Gödöllő.

Most important concerts:

2005-2014 Royal Palace of Gödöllő (Hungary) 50 concerts
2011-2012 Festival Brezice (Slovenia) - 5 concerts
2012 -2013 Varna Early Music Festival (Bulgaria) - 2 concerts
2009-2013 Concerts in England with Fiori Musicali - 12 concerts
2009-2014 Concerts in English country houses and in Churches - 10 concerts
2005-2012 Baroque Days Gödöllő (Hungary) - 5 concerts
2006-2012 Baroque Wedding Győr (Hungary) - 4 concerts
2010-2012 Valley of Arts (Hungary) – 3 concerts
2011 Varazdin Baroque Evenings (Croatia) - 9 concerts
2011 Ars Antiqua Festival (Slovakia)
2011 Palace of Arts – Festival theater (Hungary) - 2 concerts
2009 Carnival in Venice (Italy)
2005-2006 Hungarian Cultural Foundation (Hungary) – 23 concerts
Festival Nyírbátori – 2 concerts
Old Academy of Music (Budapest) – 5 concerts
Bartók Radio - Marble room
Duna TV – Mentor programme
Baroque Ball Győr – 2 concerts
Zichy Palace Győr – 2 concerts
Mathias Church Budapest
University Church Budapest
Zalaegerszeg Concert Hall - 2 concerts
Martonvásár - Town Museum
Early Music Days Kisvárda
Hungarian Cultural Foundation - Conference of Hungarian Bishops
Initiation of Knights of Malta – 6 concerts
Pestszentlőrinc Old Town Hall – 3 concerts

Castles, Palaces, Churches and unique places where we had concerts:

England:

Kimbolton Castle
Boughton House
Aynhoe Park
Cranford Hall
Fawsley Hall
Brockhall
Staunton Harold
Sulgrave Manor
The Castel - Wellinborough
St. Michael's Church – Oxford
Brixworth Saxon Church
Wellinborough Catholic Church
The Courtenay Centre - Newton Abbot

Metodist Church – Northampton
Boughton Church

Slovenia:

Bogensperk castle
Grad – castle Felsőlendva
Zalec castle
Tracoscan castle
Pisece castle
Art Gallery – Ljubljana

Bulgaria:

Art Gallery - Varna

Croatia:

Mary of the snow church – Belec
Varasdin Castel
Krizeci Cathedral
Ludbreg Castle
Varasdisnke Toplice church

Italia:

Hotel Bauer – Venice

Hungary:

Royal Palace - Grassalkovich Palace - Gödöllő
Esterházy Palace- Papa
Festetich Palace- Budapest
Esterházy Palace- Tata
Wenkheim Palace – Budapest
Pálffy Palace – Budapest
Ráday Castle - Pécel
Malonyai Castel
Nyirbátor Castel
Nagyttény Castle
Zalaegerszeg – Synagog
Kisvárda – Synagog
Zichy Palace – Győr
Old Music Academy - Budapest
Hungarian Cultural Foundation - Budapest
Barátok Church – Kecskemét
Church – Kaposcs

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