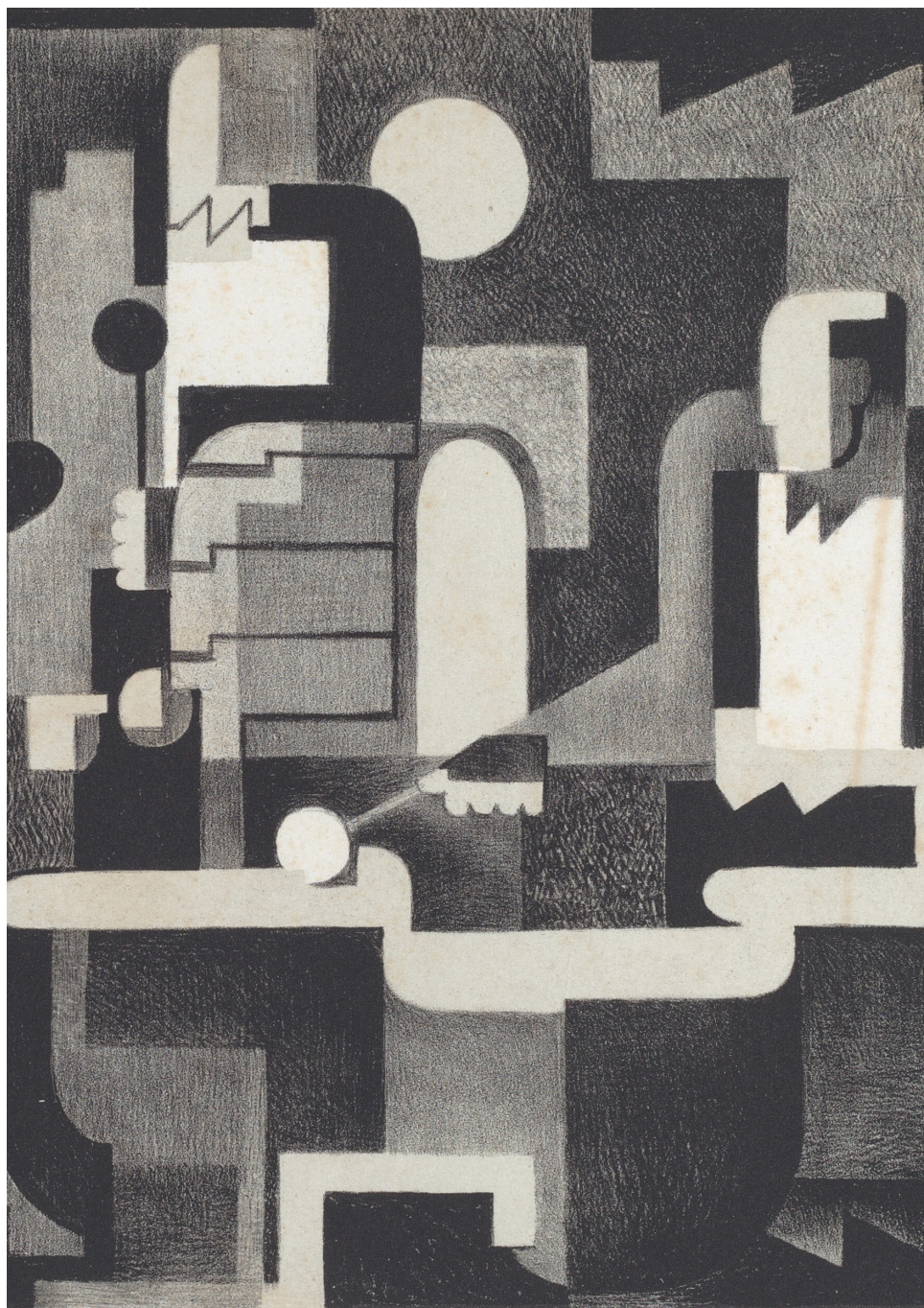


78TH SEASON OF

CONCERTS

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART | FEBRUARY 9, 2020



PROGRAM



Nordic Voices, photo by Fredrik Arff

Nordic Voices

Tone Elisabeth Braaten, soprano

Ingrid Hanken, soprano

Ebba Ryd, mezzo-soprano

Per Kristian Amundrød, tenor

Frank Havrøy, baritone

Rolf Magne Asser, bass

Music from the Time of Carlos V

February 9, 2020 | 3:30 p.m.

West Building, West Garden Court

Celebrating Alonso Berruguete: First Sculptor of Renaissance Spain, on view through February 17, 2020

Fra Olavsmusikken (c. 1100)
“Predicasti”

Fra Olavsmusikken
“Alleluia”

Tomás Luis de Victoria (1548–1611)
“Vidi speciosam”

Cristóbal de Morales (1500–1553)
“Exaltata est sancta Dei Genitrix”

Jacob Clemens non Papa (1510–1555)
“O magnum mysterium”

Tomás Luis de Victoria
“Congratulamini mihi”

Tomás Luis de Victoria
“Nigra sum sed Formosa”

Tomás Luis de Victoria
“Ardens est cor meum”

Tomás Luis de Victoria
“Quem vidistis pastores dicite”

Carlo Gesualdo
“Ardens est cor meum”

Carlo Gesualdo (1556–1613)
“Tenebrae factae sunt”

Tomás Luis de Victoria
“Vadam et circuibo civitatem”

Intermission

THE MUSICIANS

Nordic Voices has created a musical world that explores vocal expression through the centuries of written composition. The acclaimed six-voice a cappella ensemble takes the art form into unheard territory with new commissions and collaborations on stage and on disc, using vocal techniques from ordinary classical sounds to Mongolian overtone singing.

Nordic Voices is based in Oslo, Norway. Hailed internationally for its performances on stage and on award-winning recordings, the ensemble's vast repertoire ranges from the medieval era to the present, featuring works of composers from Orlando di Lasso and Monteverdi to Ligeti, Messiaen, Thoresen, and Kverndokk. The musicians' performance style is smart and stylish, employing a playful yet sophisticated approach that enhances their already remarkable singing. Nordic Voices has appeared in major series and concert halls from Kyoto to New York, from Munich to Toronto, and from South Africa to Taiwan.

Recent explorations have included collaborations with some of Europe's most acclaimed jazz artists, including trumpeter Nils Petter Molvær, with whom they have recorded Bójrñ Bolstad Skjelbred's *The Bee Madrigals*, a call for action in a song cycle. Recent European and North American tours have included the group's work with the Gryphon Trio, for which Canadian composer Jeffrey Ryan created *Scar Tissue* for piano trio and six voices, with text by Canadian poet Michael Redhill.

Formed in 1996, Nordic Voices comprises six graduates from the Norwegian Academy of Music and the Norwegian Academy of Opera, who, in addition to their singing backgrounds, have a broad range of experience from choral conducting to teacher training and composition. It is perhaps this range of interests that leads the artists to explore a wider than usual spectrum of musical expression, from plainchant to new works commissioned from leading Norwegian composers; from the most sacred of religious texts to the strongly secular.

PROGRAM NOTES

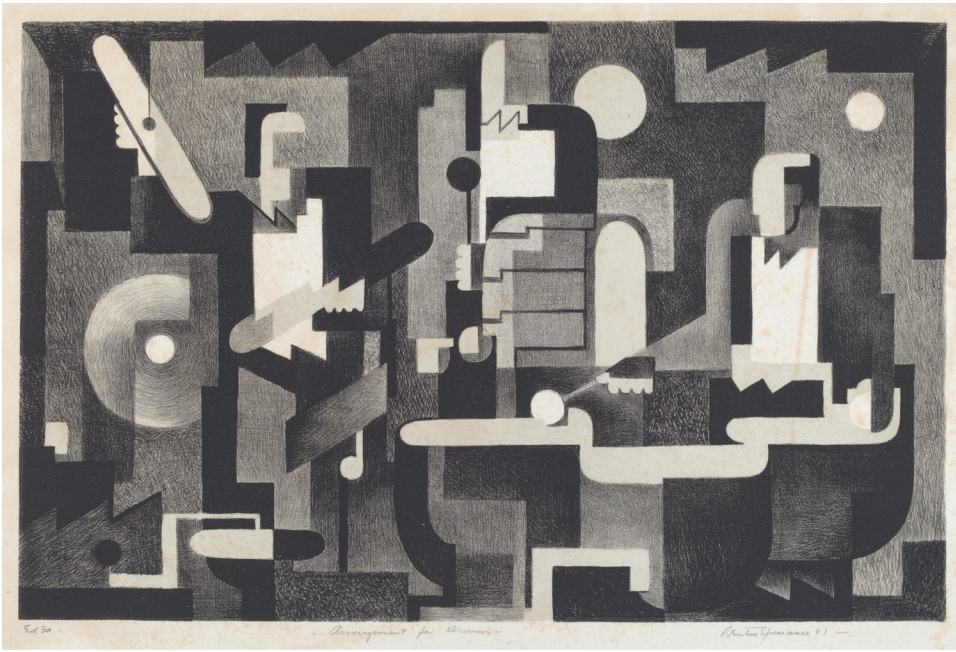
Alonso Berruguete is one of the most underrated artists of the Renaissance. Between the early 1520s and his death in 1561, he transformed the arts of Castile, his home region in Spain, with a dramatic style of painting and sculpture that drew from his experiences working in Italy during the 1510s. His specialty was an art form unique to Spain: large, multistory altarpieces decorated with painted wooden figures and reliefs (called *retablos* in Spanish). Berruguete produced several major *retablos* during the 1520s and 1530s that sealed his reputation as the most inventive sculptor then active on the Iberian Peninsula. In his later career, his production expanded into other areas of sculpture. For the archbishop of Toledo, he undertook an array of impressive works, including the monumental group in the alabaster of the Transfiguration of Christ that crowns the choir stall in Toledo Cathedral.

Alonso Berruguete: First Sculptor of Renaissance Spain is the first exhibition outside Spain devoted to the artist. Paintings and sculptures from his most ambitious *retablo*, which decorated the high altar of the Church of the Monastery of San Benito el Real in Valladolid, form the centerpiece. Dismantled during the nineteenth century, the altarpiece is now preserved in the Museo Nacional de Escultura in Valladolid, which has lent more than twenty works to the exhibition, including Berruguete's masterful *Sacrifice of Isaac*.

To illuminate the experience of seeing these sculptures at the National Gallery, we've invited Nordic Voices to perform works from the group's recent recording of music by Tomás Luis de Victoria, undoubtedly the most famous composer from sixteenth-century Spain. The title of the program, *Music from the Time of Carlos V*, refers to the ruler of the Spanish Empire (1516–1556), the Holy Roman Empire (1519–1558), and the Habsburg Netherlands (1506–1556). The famous saying, "I speak Spanish to God, Italian to women, French to men, and German to my horse" is attributed to Carlos V. He was undoubtedly the most powerful man in sixteenth-century Europe, from his teens until his death in 1558.

Music for today's program dates mainly to the period of Carlos V's reign and Berruguete's work, with the exception of Fra Olavsmusikken's "Predicasti" and "Alleluia," which are based on a Norwegian Gregorian chant from the twelfth century. Cristóbal Morales was considered to be the most influential Spanish composer before Tomás Luis de Victoria. Carlo Gesualdo indeed provides contrast on this program and shows a chromatic language not heard again until the late nineteenth century.

Program note on Alonso Berruguete by C.D. Dickerson III, Curator and Head of Sculpture and Decorative Arts, National Gallery of Art; Program note on Carlos V and composers provided by Nordic Voices.



Benton Murdoch Spruance, *Arrangement for Drums*, 1941, National Gallery of Art, Washington, Reba and Dave Williams Collection, Florian Carr Fund and Gift of the Print Research Foundation, 2008.115.269

Upcoming Events of the Seventy-Eighth Season of The William Nelson Cromwell and F. Lammot Belin Concerts

Unless otherwise noted, concerts are held in the West Building, West Garden Court.

Eighth Blackbird

Ice 'n' SPICE

Works by Nina Shekhar, Fjola Evans, Andy Akiho, and others.

February 16, 3:30 p.m.

Third Coast Percussion

Music of Devonté Hynes (aka Blood Orange), Ryan Lott (aka Son Lux), and iconic composer Philip Glass.

February 23, 3:30 p.m.

Sound Sketch

Suspicious Cheeselords

From the Heavens

Music illuminating the Gallery's holdings of images of heavenly beings.

February 28, 12:10 p.m.

West Building Rotunda

McGill-McHale Trio

Music by Poulenc, Debussy, and contemporary composers Chris Rogerson, Valerie Coleman, Guillaume Connesson, and Paul Schoenfield.

March 1, 3:30 p.m.

General Information

Admission to the National Gallery of Art and all of its programs is free of charge, except as noted.

The use of cameras or recording equipment during the performance is not allowed.

Please be sure that all portable electronic devices are turned off.

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Concerts are made possible in part through the generosity of donors to the National Gallery of Art through The Circle. Reserved seating is available in recognition of their support. Please contact the development office at (202) 842-6450 or circle@nga.gov for more information.

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