

DAME EMMA KIRKBY PERFORMS ABSORBING EARLY MUSIC PROGRAM



Stephen Whittington, *The Advertiser*

April 15 2019, 3:04pm

Subscriber only

If music reveals anything about the time in which it was written, then everyone in the 17th century suffered from acute lovesickness.

Who knows what the future will make of the music of our time? In this absorbing program, soprano Dame Emma Kirkby, a veritable icon of early music, with lutenist Jakob Lindberg, delved into the melancholic world of disappointed, aggrieved and bereaved lovers.

It was a pandemic that infected Europe and England with symptoms of despondency and gloom, expressed in elegant music that nearly always had a dying strain.

There's nothing like a dame, and there's nobody quite like Dame Emma for conveying the nuances of expression and the subtleties of rhetoric, with a voice that retains purity of sound and exquisite dynamic control even though she has recently entered her eighth decade. Particularly delightful were two songs by the only woman represented, Barbara Strozzi, which showed a lively wit amid the lovesick self-pity.

Lutenist Jakob Lindberg was the perfect partner in this lovely afternoon of music from long ago.

Dame Emma Kirkby with Jakob Lindberg

UKARIA

Sunday, April 14