

MUSICA nuova

A NEW LOOK AT EARLY MUSIC

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Musica Nuova presents *Men, Maids, and Mischief*, a semi-staged pastiche of bawdy and naughty English songs September 6 and 10, 2012

On the heels of Musica Nuova's acclaimed production of Monteverdi's *Il Ballo delle Ingrate*, the upstart Baroque players head back to the bar for ***Men, Maids, and Mischief***, an original pastiche of surprisingly dirty songs, catches, and tales from English pubs and houses of ill-repute. Lutenist **Grant Herreid** joins Musica Nuova Artistic Director **Amanda Keil**, soprano **Brooke Bryant**, baritone **Peter Becker** and counter-tenor **Nicholas Tamagna** (castmates from *Ballo*) for a sketch comedy show that gets its laughs from the music of English Renaissance and Restoration composers such as Henry Purcell, Thomas D'Urfey, Henry Eccles, Thomas Campion, and Thomas Morley.

The first show appears on **Thursday, September 6 at 8pm** in the champagne room at **Jimmy's No. 43**, East Village, Manhattan (43 E. 7th St. btw. 2nd and 3rd Ave. Subways: 6 to Astor Place, R/W to 8th St. or F to 2nd Ave.) The second performance takes place on **Monday, September 10 at 7pm** at **Pete's Candy Store** (709 Lorimer St. btw Richardson and Frost Streets, Williamsburg, Brooklyn. Subways: G to Metropolitan or L to Lorimer.) Admission is \$10 at Jimmy's No. 43, and by donation at Pete's Candy Store. Reservations can be made in advance at www.musicanuova.org, or by calling 917-412-6472.

Men, Maids, and Mischief showcases the unabashedly bawdy side of English music: "My Man John had a Thing that was Long" and "My Thing is My Own" are just as suggestive as they sound, and other songs are filled with tales of humorously seduced maidens, lascivious suitors, and in one case, an old man bested by his virgin bride. The troupe stages some of the songs to make the stories come to life and add to the mischief. And with so many lusty songs about drinking, Pete's and Jimmy's are the perfect settings for guests to toast a few along with the cast.

About Musica Nuova

Founded by Artistic Director Amanda Keil, the early music ensemble Musica Nuova brings new perspectives to Baroque music by heightening the dramatic qualities intrinsic to the repertoire. Through staging and storytelling, Musica Nuova weaves storylines based on the meaning of the songs. The goal of the company is to create performances that transcend the standard concert experience of early music, providing a framework to engage newcomers and offer a new level of understanding to experienced listeners.

Musica Nuova takes its name from the revolutionary book of songs *Le Nuove Musiche*, published in 1602 by Florentine composer Giulio Caccini. The book marked a new way of singing that brings out the meaning of the words through ornamentation, varied rhythmic textures, and expressive harmonies. These dramatic songs heralded the beginnings of opera, and marked a turning point in the development of solo song. Taking these songs as a starting point, Musica Nuova expands their stories into timeless narratives.

During its initial years in Boston, Musica Nuova was presented on concert series with the Society for Historically Informed Performance (SoHIP), Bates College, MIT Chapel, Boston Early Music Festival Fringe Concerts, and Newton Library, and was Ensemble-in-Residence at the Amherst Early Music Festival. In July 2012, Artistic Director Amanda Keil and harpsichordist Gabriel Shuford travelled to the International Early Music Festival in Riga, Latvia, on the invitation of the U.S. Consulate. 2011-12 marked Musica Nuova's full debut season in New York, including its first full-length opera, *Il Ballo delle Ingrate*.

For further information, press tickets, photos, and interviews, please contact Amanda Keil at 917-412-6472 or info@musicanuova.org

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