



Orchestral Review

# Beyond Vivaldi: Lute Concertos (Evangelina Mascardi)

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Beyond Vivaldi  
Lute Concertos  
Evangelina Mascardi  
(lute), Estrovagante  
Riccardo Doni

▶ Play album

**Krebs, J L: Concerto in F major**  
*Evangelina Mascardi (lute)*  
*Estrovagante*  
*Riccardo Doni*

- ▶ I. Allegro
- ▶ II. Larghetto

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☰ ALBUM AND ARTIST DETAILS

This premiere recording of Joachim Bernard Hagen's Lute Concerto in D minor is not going to set the world on fire – but my goodness, is it lovely. The lutenist Evangelina Mascardi has a wonderful touch, and the ensemble



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Bayreuth. The Margravine transformed the musical life of the city too, establishing a new opera house, and it is down to her library that much of the lute's late repertory has been preserved. Hagen, who joined Wilhelmine's court band in 1737, has composed what feels like a little gem. Mascardi teases out its chromatic lines with simple and genuine delight, and the solo episode and cadenza that close the movement are particularly lovely.

The album opens with the Concerto in F major by Johann Ludwig Krebs which, again, is entirely charming. We're reminded in the booklet notes that Krebs was Bach's favourite student, but more interestingly, we're also told that these concertos potentially survive because of the formidable dramatist and lutenist Luise Adelgunde Victorie Gottsched. Alongside taking lessons with Krebs and amassing a fine musical library, it seems that Gottsched might have been the first woman to have published a German comedy under her own name.

Listeners will recognise the Concerto in D major by Vivaldi, and this performance gives a freshness to its familiar strum. The central *Largo*, I would go as far as to write, is magisterial. Mascardi's cadenza gently unfolds, the *tuttis* surreptitiously creep in – again, nothing world-shattering here, but it is utterly delightful. We close with another premiere recording, an intriguing concerto by Karl Ignaz Augustin Kohaut. So sincere thanks go to Mascardi, Estrovagante and Doni for attending to these lute lacunae – this album goes to bat for the lute repertoire during a historical period when the instrument was in gradual decline from fashion; significantly, it also centres women in the historical narrative of the lute.



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