

# DESIRE, LOVE AND DEATH



SEHNSUCHT

NACH LIEBESTOD

*Plaerdemavida Ensemble*



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PLAERDEMAVIDA ENSEMBLE:

Paloma Chiner, soprano

Jorge Fanjul, violoncello

Pablo García-Berlanga, piano

TEXT:

María Cárdenas

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## *THE PROJECT*

Three technicians are preparing the set for the concert, checking that everything is perfect for the performance. Three technicians who love Wagner and Litz's music and dream of being performers someday. But no. That feels so difficult, so far away. They are just technicians. But what if we ignore prejudices and let the music speak?

"Desire, love and death" opens the door to the universe of Wagner and Litz and brings it down to earth: heavenly music for earthly spirits.

Through humor and poetry, the three interpreters take us on a beautiful path through music that takes us from the superhuman to the mundane, from the spiritual to the carnal, from love to abandonment, from passion to tranquility, from life to death.

"Desire, love and death" is a concert with the freshness and the courage it takes to bring lyrical music to everyone.

"Desire, love and death", sit the gods at our table to share music, laughter and emotion.

"Desire, love and death" is a concert for everyone, because their music

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## *DESIRE, LOVE AND DEATH* ◆

sehnsucht nach liebestod

When Richard Wagner's health arrives at a critical condition in 1882, Franz Liszt writes "La Lugubre Gondola", a heartfelt ode to his friendship and a premonitory lament of his death. "Wagner's work will dominate our century as the most monumental manifestation of contemporary art. It is withering, wonderful, and solemn. His genius was for me a luminous force to follow».

The friendship between both of them, which emerged decades ago, was born from mutual admiration. Throughout their work, both musicians will deal with three great human instincts - desire, love and death - instincts also present in their lives.

Franz Liszt, the most famous concert pianist of his time and creator of the concept of modern recital, knew how to treat the theme of love like no other, arousing passions in his concerts among the female audience. In the same way, the friendship between Wagner and Liszt was also passionate: a friendship that lasted a lifetime despite the many encounters and disagreements.



“My dear Liszt, I have to tell you you are a indeed a friend! Let me tell you nothing else: I have always seen the friendship between two men as the most noble and admirable relationship that can exist between two human creatures. You embody this ideal for me, making it possible for me not only to conceive, but to feel and touch, so to speak, what a friend is ” – From a letter of Wagner to Liszt, July 1850.

In 1857, Wagner, totally bankrupt, had accepted the protection of Otto Wesendonck, a merchant from Zurich, settling in an adjacent villa. The composer began to receive assiduous visits from Mathilde, Otto’s wife.

An intense love relationship was born between them, the germ of one of his most beautiful works: the "Wesendonck Lieder", with verses by Mathilde herself, which will serve as inspiration for *Tristan und Isolde*, the work in which Wagner fully portrays his three great obsessions: desire, love and death.

In 1858, Minna, the composer's wife, intercepted the correspondence between him and Mathilde, triggering the breakdown of the relationship between the Wagner and the Wesendonck families. "Wagner quickly relegated me. He hardly recognized me when I went to Bayreuth. And yet I am Isolde", said Mathilde Wesendonck in 1862.

Wagner returns to Munich under the protection of King Louis II, meeting Cosima, then married to the then famous director and composer Hans Von Bülow. The adulterous love between Cosima and Richard makes Liszt burn in anger. Paradoxically, Cosima was in turn her illegitimate daughter, also the fruit of adulterous love. Their love kept them together for life, as Cosima - "Custody of my creative force, restorer of my happiness" - detailed in his diaries the last years of Wagner.

The works of Wagner and Liszt, despite stylistic differences, describe human passions that trespassed the social norms and prejudices of their time - Wagner even daring to sublimate adultery and eroticism through death in the fate of *Tristan*.

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# *REPERTOIRE*

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## part i

richard wagner

Tristan und Isolde – Prélude

franz liszt

O lieb

richard wagner

Wesendonck Lieder

i. Der Engel

ii. Stehe still

iii. Im Treibhaus

iv. Schmerzen

v. Träume

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## parte ii

richard wagner/franz liszt

Tannhäuser

franz liszt

Es muss ein Wunderbares sein

O quand je dors

franz liszt

La lugubre gondola (Elégie n°3)

richard wagner

Tristan und Isolde – Liebestod “Mild und leise wie er lächelt” (Isolde)





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We are Plaerdemavida Ensemble, a trio of chamber vocal music formed by Paloma Chiner (soprano), Jorge Fanjul (cello) and Pablo García-Berlanga (piano).

In recent years, we have been awarded in various competitions, highlighting the first prize in the “Cofrentes International Music Competition” and the “Ibla Grand Prize” International Competition, with a “Heitor Villa-Lobos” honorable mention and a special mention from the Rotary Club of Ragusa (Sicily).

We started our activity in 2015 with the Azulão project, recorded on disk in 2016. Since then, we have performed on numerous stages around the world, with highlights such as the Carnegie Hall in New York, Kioi Hall in Tokyo and concert tours around Georgia, Italy and Spain.

We have also performed in chamber music festivals such as the “Menorca Music Festival” and the “ENSEMS Festival”, at the Palau de la Musica in Valencia with our EGO show, with the premiere of original works by composers such as Voro

García or Isabel Latorre.

In 2019 we recorded two albums: “Desire, Love and Death”, in which we pay tribute to the composers R. Wagner and F. Listz, and “Sons de Llevant”, an album that recovers Valencian musical heritage.

Our repertoire focuses on chamber vocal music from the late 18th century to the present. We have created a space of timbre freedom where the warmth of the cello and the voice are intertwined with the wide sound of the piano, allowing us to experiment with all the possibilities of those sounds.

Our projects are conceptually conceived as experiments with new formats, adding musicians and professionals from other artistic disciplines when needed in order to convey the musical idea.

We are also organizers and artistic directors of the “Quart de Poblet International Music Festival”.



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## PALOMA CHINER

The Valencian soprano Paloma Chiner, with a voice full of warmth, great length and innate musicality, has debuted in the field of opera and recital in theaters and auditoriums such as San Carlo Theater in Naples, the Palau de les Arts Reina Sofía in Valencia, Carnegie Hall in New York or Kioi Hall in Tokyo. Regarding opera, he has starred in operas such as Tosca, Cavalleria Rusticana, Don Carlo, Don Giovanni and La Vida Breve, among others. He has received master classes from great figures in the lyrical world such as Ileana Cotrubas, Raina Kawainwaska, Ana María Sánchez or Renata Scotto.

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## JORGE FANJUL

Best academic record of his promotion and awarded with several prizes, he has been part of prestigious orchestras, such as the Young National Orchestra of Spain, Jeunesses Musicales World Orchestra, Orchestra and National Choir of Spain, Chamber Orchestra Reina Sofía, Instrumental Group of Valencia , The Valencia Orchestra and the Valencian Community Orchestra, in addition to an intense concert activity in the field of chamber music.





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## PABLO GARCÍA-BERLANGA

Valencian pianist specialized in the accompaniment of singers. He has followed an specialization masters at the Koninklijk Conservatory in Brussels, the Royal Academy of Music in London and at the Flanders OperaStudio in Ghent, studying with masters such as Aleksandar Madzar or Malcolm Martineau. He has worked as a repertoire pianist in master classes with figures such as Barbara Bonney, Mariella Devia or Anne Murray. He has performed internationally as a soloist and accompanist in chamber formations, highlighting his performance of Ravel's Sol Concert with the National Symphony Orchestra of El Salvador.

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