

# Oxford Trobadors

**Okzitanische Musik: mittelalterlich und modern  
Medieval & modern Occitan music**

**Kirche St. Maria Magdalena**

**Platanenstr. 22B, 13156 Berlin**

**17. Februar 2011, 20.00**

**Eintritt frei (Spende erbeten)**

## **PROGRAMME**

Ray Noble	Tenor/guitar
Denis Noble	Baritone/guitar
Bryan Vaughan	Guitar/composition

Sponsored by *European College of Liberal Arts*  
and *The Music of Life*

# Programme

## Lo Boier (The herdsman)

Traditional, c. 15th century

**Denis Noble, Bryan Vaughan, Ray Noble**

The herdsman returns to find his wife disconsolate (*tota desconsolada*) by the fireplace. He reassures her that the Saracens, the English, and all the other invaders, will not return; there will be peace .... she will have a kiss (*auretz 'na potonada*) and the sun will shine (*e lo solelh n'en raiara*).

## Nadau ta Baptista (Christmas for Baptiste)

Nadau

**Ray Noble and Bryan Vaughan**

A gently lilting Pyrenees lullaby. Baptista sleeps while father Christmas (*lo pair Nadau*) flies through the night and gentle snowflakes fall on the lovers (*sus los amors*). From the depths of his heart (*Jo tot au de-hens*) he loves the child always (*que t'aime, tostemps*).

## Can vei la lauzeta mover

Bernart de Ventadorn (12 century)

**Denis Noble**

When I see the lark flap its wings with joy against the sun, when sweetness touches its heart (*per la docor qu'al cor li vai*), so great is my jealousy that I wonder that my heart does not melt with desire (*lo cor de desirier no'm fond*)

## Se canta (It's singing)

Traditional, c. 14th century?

**Ray Noble, Denis Noble**

It's singing, ever singing (*se canta que canta*) This is THE traditional occitan song, performed all over the south of France. Beneath my window (*dejost ma fenestra*), there is a little bird (*i a un aucelon*), it sings all night (*tota la nuech canta*), singing its song (*Canta sa cancon*). The chorus: Se canta que canta, canta per io, canta per ma mio, qu'es au lenh de io. (its singing, ever singing, doesn't sing for me, sings for my loved one, who is far from me).

## Arron d'Aimar (After Love)

Nadau, arr Denoth

**Denis Noble**

A beautiful love song "after making love" (*Arron d'aimar*) in which he dreams of the laughter of children (*aus arrisers gaujos*), and of a country where lovers are forgiven (*ont lo monde es perdonan aus qui s'aiman, uros*). The chorus repeats 'how I love you' (*Que t'aime*) 'through water and lightening' (*per l'aiga o l'eslambrec*).

## La Sestina (The Sistine)

Arnaud Daniel circa 1180

**Denis Noble**

Arnaut set himself the most difficult poetic challenges: six verses, six lines in each, six rhyme words, used in each of the six lines. He sends this erotic song, proclaiming his firm love (*lo ferm voler qu'el cor m'intra*) to his unreachable (probably aristocratic) lover in her equally unreachable bedroom, before he finds paradise, and his joy is doubled (*qu'en paradis, n'aura doble joi*). The song contains the famous line *tant fina amors com cela qu'el còr m'intra* (such noble love as in my body enters). *Fin amor* is the central trobador theme.

## Los de qui cau (Those who must)

Nadau

**Ray Noble, Bryan Vaughan & Denis Noble**

These are my people (*Que son los mens*), those who till the earth, raise the livestock, they are as they must be (*los de qui cau*). He reflects as he leaves the slopes of the Pyrenees for Bordeaux (*Qu'avi de partir ta Bordeu*). He sees that they are the memories of all who have gone before (*e quian hons de la memoria, tot los qui son passat abans*).

## L'aiga de la Dordonha (Waters of the Dordogne)

Peireguda

**Denis Noble, Ray Noble**

Boats sail down (*davalan los batels*) the Dordogne river which reflects the chateaux (*miralha los castels*) on the hillsides. This peaceful scene is invaded by the quarry men (*cal far montar las peiras*), pollution destroys the fish (*los peissons s'en van*), and finally a nuclear reactor (*centrala nucleara*). Yet always (*e tot-jorn*) the river flows and the boats go down.

## Quan lo riu de la fontana (waters of the fountain)

Jaufre Rudel c 1140

**Ray Noble**

When the clear water gushes from the spring (*fontana*) and the nightingale (*rossinholetz*) sings, it is time to sing my own song (*lo mieu refranha*). He sings for his distant lover (*amors de terra lonhdana*) but he can never see her (*Pos tots jorns m'en falh aizina*). Yet his heart longs for her (*de desir mos cors non fina*) for only love can cure his pain (*la dolor que ab joi sana*).

## Nulhs hom non pot d'amor gandar

Peire Vidal c 1140

**Ray Noble**

No one can escape love once he is under its sovereignty, Whether it please him or not, he must follow its desires. He cannot follow another will, but where he wants, he runs there and has no care for sense or folly.

## L'autrier jost'una sebissa

Marcabru (12th century)

**Ray Noble**

*L'autrier jost'una sebissa, Trobei pastora mestissa, De joi e de sen massissa, Si cum filla de vilana....*

The other day beside a hedge, I found a humble shepherdess, Full of joy and good sense,

Like the daughter of a peasant girl.....

## A l'ora de l'aubada (at the hour of dawn)

Nadau

**Denis Noble**

At the hour of dawn I know when to find you, when you are beautiful. If your eyes are on the dark, I will make suns for you, I know stars that will turn your head.

## Immortela (the Edelweiss)

Nadau

**Ray Noble, Bryan Vaughan & Denis Noble**

This is THE song of the Occitan-speaking areas of France, sung everywhere. The chorus is catching:

**HAUT PEIROT, VAM CAMINAR, VAM CAMINAR, DE CAP TA L'IMMORTELA,**

**HAUT PEIROT, VAM CAMINAR, VAM CAMINAR, LO PAIS VAM CERCAR**

**The Oxford Trobadors** take their inspiration from the music of the language, Occitan, in which the 12th and 13th century Troubadours composed. The language and culture are still alive today in the south of France and parts of Italy and Catalonia. 'Troubadour' in Occitan is written 'Trobador'. The language resembles Italian, Spanish and Portuguese.

**Denis Noble** is author of the widely-acclaimed book *The Music of Life* which sponsors this concert. He has studied Occitan language and music for 35 years and has appeared in live and broadcast concerts with native language musicians in France. He formed the Oxford Trobadors in 1998. They have performed in concerts in The Maison Francaise, Balliol College and in the Perigord, as well as performing regularly in the Holywell Music Room.

**Ray Noble's** distinctive, versatile voice has been described variously as 'deep and cavernous' to 'soft and velvet' ranging from rock, pop, blues and jazz to folk and classic in style. He has been a vocalist in Jazz and Blues groups performing at the Edinburgh Fringe and was lead vocalist in the Oxford based rock band, The HeartBeats.

**Bryan Vaughan** has been playing 40 years : a veteran of hundreds of gigs, playing and influenced by folk blues pop rock and lager. He is a member of the Heartbeats with Ray Noble and together they composed songs in a variety of styles. He is currently recording a CD of melodic songs trying to capture the style and spirit of music from the 1960s.

CHORUS of the last song for those who want to sing with us:

HAUT PEIROT, VAM CAMINAR, VAM CAMINAR, DE CAP TA L'IMMORTELA

HAUT PEIROT, VAM CAMINAR, VAM CAMINAR, LO PAIS VAM CERCAR