A Change of Seasons:
Christopher Simpson’s The Seasons and William Lawes’ Harp Consorts

New Comma Baroque, joined by guest artists Alison Attar, Peter Lekx, Joel Spears and Russell Wagner, explore a very different look at the seasons with Simpson’s bold virtuoso improvisatory divisions in the Seasons and Lawes’ Harp Consorts. William Lawes’ harp consorts were composed for his colleagues in the ‘lutes and voices’ of the ‘King’s Musick’ at the Court of Charles I, a rare work featuring harp, theorbo, violin and viol. The Seasons are among Christopher Simpson’s most technically challenging compositions, having a lasting influence on English music for generations while owing a great deal to the viola bastarda tradition of the previous century. Please join New Comma Baroque for a tour du force program looking at A Change of Seasons.

Matthew C. Cataldi & Peter Lekx, Baroque violins
Phillip W. Serna & Russell Wagner, violas da gamba
Alison Attar, Baroque harp
Joel Spears, theorbo
Emily Jane Katayama, harpsichord

The Seasons: Spring
Christopher Simpson
(1602/1606-1669)

Fancy
Ayre
Galliard

Matthew C. Cataldi, Baroque violin
Phillip W. Serna & Russell Wagner, bass viols
Emily Jane Katayama, harpsichord

Harpe Consort No.3 in G
William Lawes
(1602-1645)

Alman
Corant
Corant
Saraband

Harpe Consort No.1 in g
William Lawes

Alman
Corant
Corant
Saraband

Matthew C. Cataldi, Baroque violin
Phillip W. Serna, viola da gamba
Alison Attar, Baroque harp
Joel Spears, theorbo

The Seasons: Summer
Christopher Simpson

Fancy
Ayre
Galliard

Peter Lekx, Baroque violin
Phillip W. Serna & Russell Wagner, bass viols
Emily Jane Katayama, harpsichord
Harpe Consort No.11 in d
Fantazy
William Lawes
Peter Lekx, Baroque violin
Phillip W. Serna, viola da gamba
Alison Attar, Baroque harp
Joel Spears, theorbo

Intermission

The Seasons: Autumn
Fancy
Ayre
Galliard
Christopher Simpson
Matthew C. Cataldi, Baroque violin
Phillip W. Serna & Russell Wagner, bass viols
Emily Jane Katayama, harpsichord

Harpe Consort No.7 in G
Aire
William Lawes

Harpe Consort No.8 in G
Paven & Divisions
Matthew C. Cataldi, Baroque violin
Phillip W. Serna, viola da gamba
Alison Attar, Baroque harp
Joel Spears, theorbo

The Seasons: Winter
Fancy
Ayre
Galliard
Christopher Simpson
Peter Lekx, Baroque violin
Phillip W. Serna & Russell Wagner, bass viols
Emily Jane Katayama, harpsichord

Harpe Consort No.4 in d
Aire
Aire
Corant
Saraband
William Lawes
Peter Lekx, Baroque violin
Phillip W. Serna, viola da gamba
Alison Attar, Baroque harp
Joel Spears, theorbo

Harpe Consort No.8 in D
Aire
Aire
Corant
Saraband
William Lawes
Peter Lekx, Baroque violin
Phillip W. Serna, viola da gamba
Alison Attar, Baroque harp
Joel Spears, theorbo

Total Playing Time
100-109 minutes