

## Lois Johnston

After graduating from the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama, Lois carved a niche for herself as an accomplished performer of early and contemporary music. She sang regularly as a soloist with groups such as Ludus Baroque, The John Currie Singers and the Dunedin Consort. In 2000, she appeared as a flower maiden in Sir Simon Rattle's BBC Proms performance of Parsifal, and in so doing discovered a passion for opera. This prompted her to take a postgraduate course of study at Birmingham Conservatoire, specialising in opera. Her most recent roles include Vixen, Servilia and the Queen of the Night, and she regularly performs at opera galas here in New Zealand and in Europe.

As a professional chorister, she has sung for several years with the Netherlands Radio Choir, Nationale Reisopera, Choir of the Enlightenment and European Voices with whom she has toured in many of Sir Simon Rattle's productions including Idomeneo (Salzburg Festival, Lucerne Festival) and Peter Grimes (Salzburg Festival).

For almost fifteen years, Lois has been a passionate and dedicated teacher working from her home studio, has lectured in voice at the University of Canterbury and the Pettman Junior Academy, and currently proudly teaches ChristChurch Cathedral's boy choristers at Cathedral Grammar School.

Lois is delighted to be joining Jonathan Le Cocq again for tonight's performance.



**The Nut Point** -Music/Events Club-**Loyalty Member**

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email to [office@nutpoint.org](mailto:office@nutpoint.org) or purchase membership at the Café area.



# Nut Point Centre

## Shakespeare, Mary Queen of Scots and the Court of Mantua

Join **Lois Johnston**  
Soprano  
**Jonathan Le Cocq**  
Theorbo

for an evening of sixteenth and seventeenth century music inspired by the plays of William Shakespeare, and his connections with Scotland and Italy. The programme will feature the music of Purcell and Monteverdi, interspersed with some little-known songs by their Scottish contemporaries.



## Shakespeare, Mary Queen of Scots & the Court of Mantua

**Lois Johnston Soprano**  
**Jonathan Le Cocq Theorbo**

**Saturday 24 February 7.30 p.m.** Concert No 2 C.S 2015

[www.nutpoint.org](http://www.nutpoint.org)

## Programme

Our concert will present three musical styles intended to capture some of the variety and vibrancy of the late sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries: English theatre music, Italian court music, and erudite adaptations of Scottish folk music. In the manner of a Renaissance 'conceit' we have hung these onto iconic representations of all three: Shakespeare for theatre, Mary Queen of Scots for Scotland (herself by all accounts a keen singer to the lute), and Monteverdi in his experimental years at the court of Mantua. Some of these connections go well beyond a conceit, with our English songs all based on Shakespearean texts, and in others you are invited to discover a connection through titles ripe for reinterpretation through context: the pairing of a melancholy 'Fortune my foe' with a sprightly 'Queen Elizabeth Galliard' capturing the relationship between Elizabeth and Mary, for example.

### William Shakespeare

Full fathom five (The Tempest) - Robert Johnson c.1611  
Where the bee sucks (The Tempest) - Robert Johnson  
Willow willow (Othello) - anon.  
Fortune my foe - John Dowland  
Queen Elizabeth, her galliard - John Dowland  
How should I your true love know (Hamlet) - anon.  
It was a lover and his lass (As You Like It) - Thomas Morley c.1600

### Mary, Queen of Scots

Absent I am - anon.  
Into a mirthful May morning - anon.  
Depart, depart (The lament of the Master of Erskyn) - Alexander Scott  
A Scots tune / Whip my toudie / Drawe neare me and love me / A Scots tune - anon.  
How shall a young man - anon.  
Alas that same sueit face - anon.

### The Court of Mantua

Toccata and Volta - Michelagnolo Galilei (1620)  
Si dolce e il tormento (from Quarto Scherzo delle ariose vaghezze, 1624)  
Maledetto sia l'aspetto (Scherzi Musicali 1632)  
Quel sguardo sdegnosetto (Scherzi Musicali 1632)  
Eri gia tutta mia (Scherzi Musicali 1632)

### Instruments

10-Course Lute, Barber/Harris (London) 2010,

after Hans Frei, Bologna, c. 1540  
(Warwick County Museum Nr. 162)

5-course baroque guitar, Barber/Harris  
(London) 2005, after Alexandre  
Voboam 1680



## Jonathan Le Cocq

Born in the Channel Island of Jersey, Jonathan Le Cocq studied philosophy at Warwick and music in London (Guildhall/Goldsmiths) and Oxford. He moved to New Zealand in 2001 becoming senior lecturer in the music department at Canterbury University where he now holds a senior management position. He performs on various historical plucked instruments, including baroque guitar, lute and theorbo, as well as contemporary guitar and related instruments in traditional/celtic music. He is in demand nationally as a continuo player, and has worked with, amongst others, Musica Sacra, Baroque Voices, Andreas Scholl, and Affetto. He performs regularly in a duo with soprano Lois Johnston.



## Supper

Refreshments at the *Studio Cafeteria*

