



Plaine & Easie rose to national visibility just a few months after its inception, winning both Early Music America's 2009 Unicorn Prize in medieval and renaissance music and the audience choice award at the competition finals. With daring improvisational arrangements and a captivating onstage chemistry, the ensemble of soprano, lute, off-shoulder violin and five-string bass violin has won praise for its virtuosity and expressive flair. The ensemble has its roots in Elizabethan song and consort, taking its name from Thomas Morley's composition treatise and its instrumentation from John Dowland's three elaborate

lute songs with instrumental treble and bass. The ensemble's programs exploit the fantastically varied repertoire of the late Tudor age and explore the links between English and continental traditions during the era when the young and reckless violin family encountered the intimate sophistication of the lute song.



Shulamit Kleinerman specializes in off-shoulder technique on renaissance violin and medieval vielle. She studied baroque violin in London with Monica Huggett on a Hertz Fellowship from the University of California, Berkeley, after graduating in 1999 with a double major in English and music. Living in Seattle since 2000, she is a founding member of the Elizabethan quartet Plaine & Easie and the crossover vielle duo Cinnamon Bird. Her 2008 CD of seventeenth-century English country dances in original duo arrangements, *New New Nothing*, was produced with an artist residency at Jack Straw Productions. Shula writes and lectures about music history, maintains a full private studio of modern violin and early-instrument students, and teaches classes in historical arts and early music performance for school-aged children.

John Lenti has performed on lute and theorbo in concert and at music festivals across the United States and abroad and his performances have been broadcast on Performance Today and Harmonia. His playing cited as 'a joy to behold' (Seattle Times) and praised for its 'nuanced beauty and character' (Gramophone), his recording credits include *And I remain...*, an album of lute songs and lute solos with soprano Linda Tsatsanis and *The Amorous Lyre* with La Monica. John is assistant music director and plays continuo for the Seattle Baroque Orchestra, he has played with the Seattle Opera, the Pittsburgh Opera (with Chatham Baroque) and is a founding member of the ensembles *Plaine & Easie* and the *I-90 Collective*, besides maintaining a busy freelance career. He studied lute with Nigel North, Jacob Heringman, and Elizabeth Kenny and holds degrees from the North Carolina School of the Arts and Indiana University.



Canadian soprano **Linda Tsatsanis** enjoys an active and diverse career. Hailed as “ravishing” (New York Times) and possessing a voice with “crystalline purity” (Seattle Times), Ms. Tsatsanis’ career spans the concert hall, opera stage, and performance in movies and television. Ms. Tsatsanis has appeared as soloist with orchestras such as the Seattle Baroque Orchestra, Auburn Symphony, Orchestra Seattle, and Pacific Baroque Orchestra and has made recent appearances at the Indianapolis, Boston and Bloomington Early Music Festivals. She keeps a demanding performance schedule in the Pacific Northwest in addition to performances around the United States and Canada. Ms. Tsatsanis holds degrees from the University of Toronto and Indiana University. She has a new solo album with Origin Classical, *And I Remain: Three Love Stories*, that has been described as a “seductive recital of the darker sides of 17th-century love” (Gramophone), and can also be heard on recordings by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation and Naxos. Ms. Tsatsanis is a member of *Plaine & Easie*, winners of the 2009 Early Music America Medieval/Renaissance Competition. Currently, Ms. Tsatsanis lives in Seattle where she studies with Joyce Guyer.

Nathan Whittaker, historical cello, has been described as “a soloist that was not merely good but rather extraordinary”, with “musicianship of the highest order.” (SSJT) He has performed in early music festivals in Bloomington and Vancouver, and the American Institute of Musical Studies in Graz, Austria. Mr. Whittaker is a member of the Seattle Baroque Orchestra and Pacific Baroque Orchestra, regularly performs with the Pacific Northwest Ballet, and teaches at the Academy of Music Northwest. He can be heard on CBC broadcasts, and has recorded with the NPR and ATMA Classique labels. Graduating Cum Laude from Indiana University with a Bachelor and Masters of Music Degree in Cello Performance, currently Mr. Whittaker is a DMA candidate in cello performance with Toby Saks at the University of Washington. His private instructors have included Helga Winold, Tsuyoshi Tsutsumi, Stanley Ritchie, and Peter Wiley. Mr. Whittaker is a founding member of *Plaine & Easie*.

