



Alice Harnoncourt (Edited by)

Nikolaus Harnoncourt

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Notes on the inception of the Concentus Musicus

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Searching for the original period sound

Nikolaus Harnoncourt devoted himself to the study of early music, the way it is played and the sound of period instruments from an early age. In 1953 he founded the famous Concentus Musicus with his wife Alice and other musicians. This was to provide a forum for his work on period instruments and the historic performance practice of renaissance and baroque music. It was not until four years later that the Concentus Musicus first performed in public. Alice Harnoncourt has brought together the unpublished diary entries and notes of her husband, which recount his explorations on the trail of early musical sounds. It is a fascinating and entertaining journey, during which Harnoncourt had to accomplish much to listen his way towards the original period sound.

Alice HARNONCOURT (EDITED BY)

born 1930 in Vienna, is an Austrian violinist and a pioneer in the historic performance practice of early music. After years of playing and experimenting with historic musical instruments she founded the Concentus Musicus in 1953, together with her husband and other musicians. She was actively involved with the ensemble until her husband passed away.

NIKOLAUS HARNONCOURT

born in 1929 in Berlin, died 2016. In 1953, he founded his ensemble for old music, the Concentus Musicus. As a conductor, he won numerous international awards, including the Musikpreis of the Ernst von Siemens Foundation (2002) and the Kyoto Prize (2005).