

THE BEGGAR'S ENSEMBLE

Early Music Ensemble, Artistic Director: Augustin Lusson

Based in Poitiers, France, *The Beggar's Ensemble* has established himself as one of the most original and versatile baroque ensembles from the young generation. Since its inception with violinist Augustin Lusson and harpsichordist Daria Zemele, the ensemble has been mostly exploring rarely performed repertoire, focusing on lesser-known composers as well as recreating the atmosphere in which the compositions were first heard.

It is therefore not surprising to see them release a whole CD dedicated to 18th century English composer and violinist, Richard 'Dicky' Jones (?-1744), whose output, as a modernist and iconoclast, offers a glimpse into what life could have been like in London at the beginning of the 18th century.



The CD, *Chamber Air's for violin and continuo*, Richard Jones' opus 2, was released on the *Flora* label to great critical acclaim and was awarded a *Diapason d'Or* and a *Coup de Cœur* from *Classica*. They have since released a set of violin concertos by Jean-Marie Leclair in 2022, which received a string of accolades, including TTT Télérama, Muse d'or and Clic Classiquenews. The next project aims to prove the existence of a distinctive English violin school, the composers for which will be revealed when the CD is out in 2024.

The Beggar's Ensemble is regularly invited to perform in concert halls and at festivals in France and abroad. As well as their debut at the Konzerthaus in Vienna, the ensemble has performed in Munich (Dukes' Palace), Utrecht (festival Oude Muziek), where the ensemble won First Prize, Public Prize, Season Award, NPO Radio 4 Prize (Van Wassenaer), H.I.F. Biber WDR3 (Köln Radio) baroque music competition and Concertgebouw in Amsterdam.

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