

Peter Navarro-Alonso
IN FLAGRANTE DELICTO



NOTES BY Peter Navarro-Alonso

The Italian composer and Renaissance nobleman Carlo Gesualdo da Venosa (c. 1561–1613) is both famous and infamous as the unique and brilliant composer who murdered his wife and her lover when he caught them *in flagrante delicto*. The sources for understanding the man Gesualdo are scarce, ranging from portrayals of him as mildly depressive and embittered to a full-blown psychopath.

It is difficult to grasp the person behind the name Gesualdo. On the other hand, it is far easier to get a hold of his music, as 104 madrigals and a wealth of motets have been preserved. In these magnificent works, he constantly pushes the boundaries of the musical conventions of his time. This is especially true of the madrigals, where he revels in a colorful and complex harmonic language that, in many ways, is 300 years ahead of its time.

Since first encountering Gesualdo during my student years, I have been fascinated by both his music and his persona. So, when violinist Christina Åstrand commissioned a major work from me for Ensemble Stralo and Theatre of Voices, it quickly became clear that this was a unique opportunity to dive into that fascination. This resulted in the hour-long composition *In flagrante delicto*, which, through a series of Gesualdo quotations, embarks on a journey into a sick and darkened mind heading toward dissolution and decay.

The work *In flagrante delicto* was composed in close collaboration with violinist Christina Åstrand and conductor Paul Hillier. Together with their respective ensembles, Ensemble Stralo and Theatre of Voices, they premiered the work, have performed it numerous times since, and have now also recorded it. My heartfelt gratitude for their dedication to this piece is the reason *In flagrante delicto* is dedicated to Christina and Paul.

PAUL HILLIER | Conductor

Paul Hillier's career has embraced singing, conducting, composition and writing about music. He was founding director of the Hilliard Ensemble, and subsequently founded Theatre of Voices. His close to 200 recordings, including seven solo song recitals, have earned worldwide acclaim and won numerous prizes – Diapason d'or, Grammys and Danish Radio P2 Prizes. He has been awarded an OBE by the British queen and made Ridder af Dannebrog by the Danish Queen. Receiver of the 2023 Carl Nielsen and Anne Marie Carl-Nielsen Honorary Award.

Paul Hillier has conducted and recorded with a large number of the leading chamber choirs in Europe. His repertoire spans from the earliest masterworks, over Mozart, early romantics and Wagner, to 20th-century works by Brecht, Pärt, Walton, Stravinsky, Stockhausen and a huge number of commissions by both established and young international composers. Most noteworthy perhaps his decade long collaborations with Arvo Pärt and Steve Reich.



PETER NAVARRO-ALONSO | Composer

The compositional focal point for Navarro-Alonso has always been the dramatic and narrative, along with a deep fascination with sound. His works repeatedly delve into the anatomy of timbre, turning it inside out, smashing it, and devouring it from within. Through his compositions, he explores the human mind while striving to understand why the phenomenon of hope exists at all.

Navarro-Alonso has composed vocal music, chamber and orchestral works, two operas, as well as a number of pieces investigating the relationship between electroacoustic and acoustic instruments. He has been nominated for the Nordic Council Music Prize and the Danish Music Awards (four times), has received awards from the Danish Arts Foundation, and in 2023 was granted Denmark's most prestigious national music prize, the Carl Nielsen and Anne Marie Carl-Nielsen Honorary Award.



ENSEMBLE STRALO

Four musicians – soloists and chamber musicians with backgrounds in some of Denmark's finest orchestras and a bond that goes beyond professional collaboration – formed Ensemble Stralo in 2016. With a mixed instrumentation of strings, winds, and keyboard, the ensemble offers a unique and distinctive sound as well as a natural flexibility. The ensemble performs music ranging from the Renaissance to brand-new compositions, always providing a different kind of concert experience.

Radi Åstrand Radev, oboe
Christina Åstrand, violin
Therese Åstrand Radev, cello
Per Salo, piano



THEATRE OF VOICES

Founded in London in 1990 by the British conductor, singer and writer Paul Hillier, Theatre of Voices is considered one of the world's leading vocal ensembles and has close to 40 releases and several awards, including a Grammy and P2 awards. The ensemble's distinct, clear sound and undivided devotion to the musical material has led to many collaborations with composers such as Arvo Pärt, Steve Reich, Stockhausen, John Adams, Kaija Saariaho, Jóhann Jóhannsson, a.o. Theatre of Voices performs at prominent international festivals, concert halls and opera houses such as the Teatro Real (Madrid), Palais Garnier (Paris), Lincoln Center, Carnegie Hall (NY), Barbican Center (London), Elbphilharmonie (Hamburg), and Sydney Opera House.

Else Torp, soprano
Signe Asmussen, soprano
Miles Lallemand, countertenor
Paul Bentley-Angell, tenor
Jakob Bloch Jespersen, bass-baritone



I

*Moro, lasso, al mio duolo
e chi mi può dar vita,
ahi, che m'ancide e non vuol darmi aita!
O dolorosa sorte,
Chi dar vita i può, ahi,
mi dà morte!*

II

*Beltà, poi che t'assenti,
come ne porti il cor; porta i tormenti.
Chè tormentato cor può ben sentire
la doglia del morire,
e un'alma senza core
non può sentir dolore.*

III

*Che sì picciol pianto
fa che il core
tanto più avvampi
di vivace ardore.*

IV

*Io pur respiro in così gran dolore
e tu pur vivi, o dispietato core?
Ahi, che non vi è più spene
di riveder il nostro amato bene!
Deh, morte, danna aita,
uccidi questa vita!
Pietosa ne ferisci,
e un colpo solo
a la vita dia fin
ed al gran duolo.*

V

*"lo parto" e non più dissi,
che il dolore
privò di vita il core.*

*Moro per te, mia vita,
dolcissimo il languire.*

*Volan quasi farfalle
a i vostri almi splendori.*

*Ardita zanzaretta
morde colei che il mio cor strugge.
Indi la prende e stringe
e la dà morte.*

"Llegamos a la folía!"

*Già piansi nel dolore;
or gioisce il mio core
perchè dice il ben mio:
"Ardo per te ancor io".
Fuggan dunque le noie,
e' triste pianto omai si cangi
in dolce e lieto canto.*

*Tutto gioisco e si di gioia abondo
che de la gioia mia gioisce il mondo.*

*Sancta María
ora pro nobis.*

I

*I die! Languishing, of grief,
and the person who can give me life,
alas, kills me and does not want to give me aid.
O woeful fate!
That the one who can give me life, alas,
gives me death!*

II

*Beauty, since you depart,
take, as you do my heart, also my torments.
For a tormented heart can feel indeed
the pain of death,
but a soul without its heart
can feel no grief.*

III

*Such tiny tears
do make my heart
the more aroused
with burning ador.*

IV

*Even in agony, I still breathe,
and you still live, oh pitiless heart?
Ah, since there is no more hope
of again seeing our beloved,
death, give us aid;
take this life.
Torture me not,
but with a single stoke,
end both life
and woe.*

V

*"I go", and no more, I said,
for the pain
deprived my heart of life.*

*I die for you, my life,
my languishing is most sweet.*

*Like moths attracted to the flame,
they fly about your splendours.*

*A bold mosquito
bites the one who destroys my heart.
Then she seizes it and squeezes it
and kills it.*

"We arrive at madness!"

*Formerly I wept in my grief;
now my heart rejoices*

*because my sweetheart says:
"I, too, burn for you".*

*Then let troubles fly,
and let sad weeping now be changed
to sweet and happy singing.*

*I rejoice and with such joy abound,
that the whole world rejoices at my joy.*

*Holy Mary
pray for us.*

Recorded in HD audio format 96 kHz/32bit. Pyramix DAW system with Horus preamps/converters.

Monitored on B&W 802D Nautilus Diamond speakers and Genelec; The Ones. Microphones:
3x DPA 4006-TL, 3x DPA 4015-TL. Spot microphones; Neumann U89. For Dolby Atmos: DPA 4011's.

Available in the Dolby Atmos format on streaming services.

Recorded November 16-18 2024 in Garnisonskirken, Copenhagen

Producer: Preben Iwan
Edit: Preben Iwan and Mette Due
Mix and master: Preben Iwan
Executive producer: Lars Hannibal
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OUR Recordings

01	Moro, lasso	11.44
02	Beltà, poi che t'assenti	6.42
03	Che si picciol pianto	5.37
04	Io pur respiro	10.17
05	PART TWO: Energico	7.14
06	PART TWO: Con disperazione	3.18
07	PART TWO: Tranquillo (La folia)	3.54
08	PART TWO: Gorgogliante	8.11
09	PART TWO: Tranquillo	8.02
	Total	64.59