



“splendid and authoritative” *Vago Desio*, Gramophone

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: WASHINGTON, DC, May 7, 2024:**

The first American recording of Michelangelo Galilei’s lute music in over thirty years, RICHARD KOLB’s new album captures beautiful performances notable for the lyrical quality of the baroque compositions which make the plucked instrument ‘sing’, and the sumptuous audio engineering by producer RYAN EDWARDS, who faithfully captured the sessions in a beautiful rural wooden church in up-state New York. Younger

brother to Galileo Galilei, the famous astronomer, physicist and engineer, Michelangelo Galilei also achieved greatness in his time. One of the most sought-after lutenists in Europe, his compositions for lute blended diverse influences of Renaissance practice with the baroque avant-garde of Florence and cosmopolitan flavors of German and Polish royal courts. This album showcases his confident and distinctive style, which he published in his first and only surviving book, *Il primo libro d’intavolatura di liuto* (1650)—fifty-two pieces presented in the manner of suites, an innovation for the time.

This new album follows Kolb’s lauded work on *Vago Desio* (“splendid and authoritative” *Gramophone*) where he accompanied soprano Elissa Edwards in works from Barbara Strozzi’s Opus 8, (Acis, 2020). Label founder and owner, GRAMMY®-nominated producer, GEOFFREY SILVER, says, “Having enjoyed his beautiful playing in *Vago Desio*, I was thrilled to have the opportunity to publish this remarkable collection of sublime and evocative music that was written during transitional moments of musical style and modernity. Richard is a consummate artist with a rich sound and a passion for sustaining vocal line within counterpoint, and Ryan Edwards has done a marvelous job of utilizing the warmth of the old wooden church space in his engineering. It’s like the building is also singing. I have every confidence in these being recognized as benchmark performances of our time.”

Richard Kolb performs extensively in North America and Europe, both as a soloist and as a continuo player with a wide range of baroque and renaissance ensembles. His recordings include albums of music from Robert Ballard’s Premier Livre de Luth (Centaur, 2020), and *Vago Desio*, (Acis, 2020). Since completing a Ph.D. in musicology at Case-Western Reserve University in 2010, Kolb has combined performance with scholarly projects, including the first complete edition of the works of Barbara Strozzi, published in eight volumes by Cor Donato Editions (2014–19). His edition of Francesca Caccini’s Primo libro delle musiche is scheduled for completion in 2024. Kolb currently directs and serves as Scholar-in-Residence for the New York Continuo Collective, and has taught at the University of Toronto, the Royal Conservatory of Music (Toronto, Canada), Cleveland State University, and Case-Western Reserve University.

THE ALBUM DROPS ON MAY 7, 2024 and is available on all streaming services. Studio quality downloads and CD are available from the Label.

**DPK: SoundCloud, printable covers, links to artist bios, audio:** <https://bit.ly/3UwPkPj>

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