

Benjamin Narvey, lutenist and musicologist, was born in Montréal. After conservatory in Canada, he studied at the Guildhall School of Music & Drama (London) with David Miller, and has refined his understanding of period performance with Nigel North, Paul O'Dette and Hopkinson Smith. Benjamin has performed as a continuoist under directors such as Paul Agnew, Christian Curnyn, Ton Koopman, Sir Roger Norrington and Kenneth Weiss. He is also a member of Sir John Eliot Gardiner's two period ensembles, the Monteverdi Choir & Orchestra and the English Baroque Soloists. Benjamin also works with a variety of French chamber ensembles such as *Fuoco e Cenere* (dir. Jay Bernfeld) and the Ensemble Amarillis (dir. Héroïse Gaillard & Violaine Cochard), and is a member of the young Ensemble Il Caravaggio. Benjamin has performed at prestigious venues such as the Paris Opera, the Théâtre des Champs-Élysées and the Royal Albert Hall, and also at important festivals such as the London Handel Festival, the Brighton Early Music Festival, the Festival de Musica Antigua Ubeda y Baeza and the Vancouver Early Music Festival. Benjamin is also an experienced theatre and film musician, having performed many times with the Shakespeare's Globe Theatre, including the production of "The Duchess of Malfi" (replete with original music by Robert Johnson) that inaugurated the new Sam Wanamaker Playhouse in 2014. He also collaborates regularly on films for France 3 and ARTE. His first solo disc, "Psyché: Weiss and the French School" was recorded in 2014 (Gamut Music USA; release 2015). Benjamin is also an academic specializing in the French Baroque. His doctoral thesis, "The French Lute during the Reign of Louis le Grand" (University of Oxford, 2010) is the first cultural history of the French lute during the Grand Siècle, and will be published by the American Lute Society in 2015.