

Musical Concepts announces the release of “Alfred Deller: The Complete Vanguard Recordings”

Musical Concepts, a select line of high-quality classical recordings whose focus includes the reissue of important and landmark recordings, is pleased to announce the release of “**Alfred Deller: The Complete Vanguard Recordings**”.

This reissue series will make available, for the first time in over twenty years, all of **Alfred Deller's** Vanguard recordings. The counter-tenor's own solo vocal work, as well as anthems, operas, songs, odes and all his roles as performer and leader of **The Deller Consort** will be released in six multiple CD boxed sets, restoring to the worldwide marketplace these ground-breaking and invaluable early music recordings.

Volume 1 – Folk Songs and Ballads will launch the series with its international release on July 21, 2008.

Musical Concepts will also release all of Alfred Deller's Vanguard recordings digitally for download. While the CDs will be compiled into 6 deluxe boxes, encompassing 50 original LPs onto 35 CDs, the digital releases will be available in the same “boxed set/ collections” format, and also available in the original LP compilations on certain sites. Each CD boxed set also includes the original LP artwork, liner notes, complete texts (with English translations where applicable) handily available on a free bonus CD-ROM.

Alfred Deller's historic recordings helped to create the current early music environment and marketplace. Vanguard Records' founder Seymour Solomon, at the recommendation of Gustav Leonhardt, recorded Alfred Deller in the early 1950s. These first recordings were met with instant commercial success and artistic acclaim. The practice of performing in the counter-tenor voice had diminished up to that point and Alfred Deller, more than any other singer, re-established the counter-tenor voice with his unique artistry. The repertoire for counter-tenor and, through Deller's own Consort, the repertoire for groups of solo voices helped to establish a foothold for Renaissance vocal music in Europe, the United States and in the Far East. As Deller's remarkable virtuosic talent included a love of folk music, the Vanguard recordings in that genre for counter-tenor and vocal ensemble offer a recorded legacy that transcends the scholarly appreciation of ancient European vocal music.

The first set, **Folk Songs and Ballads**, will combine many of Deller's most popular solo albums as well as excellent Deller Consort recordings. The 10 original LPs of recorded material have been re-mastered and reconfigured to create 7 CDs. These feature Deller's vocal personality and virtuosity as in perhaps no other repertoire. Humor, romance and emotion are all showcased in these three minute operas. Deller shows himself more than just an expert in scholarly performance technique; he shows timing and individual interpretive skill that brands him a supreme vocalist, not merely a counter-tenor.

Beyond his focus as a counter-tenor, Alfred Deller was a remarkable pioneer in the early music field as the leader of The Deller Consort. Though the Consort is featured far more significantly in later sets than they are in the Folk Songs and Ballads collection, this set spotlights the unique skills and range of the group. The bawdy and often downright salacious Tavern Songs that lead off this collection show off the male voices; the lush, stunningly lovely Folk Songs Album arranged by Ralph Vaughan Williams offers angelic performances by the females. The long out of print “Cries of London” again offers a chance for the Consort to step out of the academic early music world and into the back streets of

Elizabethan London.

In the United States and Far East, most of Deller's recordings have been out of print for more than a decade. Of the 50 LPs released by Vanguard, 20 were not previously included in any local CD release. Although all of the Vanguard Deller material was released on CD at one time or another exclusively for the European market, these titles were only intermittently available and have also been out of print since 2000.

From this first set, the LPs "Tavern Songs", "Tavern Songs, Volume 2", "Cries of London" and "English Lute Songs" have never been released on CD outside Europe. Some material from "English Lute Songs" was used as material to extend some Deller recital CDs to acceptable CD length, but this is the first complete CD appearance of all of the lute songs.

Further titles in "Alfred Deller – The Complete Vanguard Recordings" will be:

- *Volume 2 - Music of Henry Purcell*
- *Volume 3 - Bach, Handel and The English Renaissance*
- *Volume 4 - Christmas Carols and Motets*
- *Volume 5 - Music of the Italian and French Renaissance*
- *Volume 6 - English, French and Italian Madrigals*

Material never released on CD include an entire LP release of Italian Baroque songs, as well as 5 hymns of Thomas Tallis, and a recital of secular French baroque music, with the Deller Consort and the Concentus Musicus Wien, conducted by Nikolaus Harnoncourt.

On his Vanguard recordings, Deller worked with the rising cream of the early music movement, including numerous recordings with Leonhardt, as well as the earliest recordings of Harnoncourt's fledgling Concentus Musicus Wien. Other artists participating in Deller's recordings include Neville Marriner, George Malcolm, and Sir Michael Tippett. Subsequent volumes feature the contributions of these extraordinary artists, captured in their prime, at the very genesis of the original instrument/historically informed performance movement.

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