



# DEREK LEE RAGIN

countertenor

"The American-born Derek Lee Ragin is one of the best, and best-known, of today's thriving countertenors, and he made his Seattle debut yesterday under auspices of the Early Music Guild with lutenist Peter Croton. Ragin's voice is most effective in the range from about middle C up to a tenth or eleventh above, and most of his program concentrated there, displaying a technique of brilliant facility in even the most intricate runs and passagework. Alacrity, diction and phrasing all contributed to an unusually expressive approach which bespoke high-level artistry."

- *The Seattle Times*

"To be sure, Derek Lee Ragin is one of the more effective countertenors working today. Ragin's delicately shaded "But who may abide" avoided the metallic sound that plagues the work of many incapable of the high tenor roles, and he brought an appropriate anguish to "He was despised." (Messiah/Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra)

- *Minneapolis Star Tribune*

"Ragin, who was also making his Chicago debut, handled them ("Cruda Amarilli" by d'India and "A miei pianti" and "Aria de Romanesca" by Frescobaldi) with assured vocal techniques and appropriate superciliousness. Ragin wrapped up the recital with some of Purcell's most entrancing vocal music: two songs from "The Faerie Queen" and three odes to the charms of music. With his warm, lustrous voice, the young countertenor swooned and dazzled, caressing each syllable with rapture."

- *Chicago Tribune*

Whatever he sings, Ragin sings with ardent musicality coupled with suppleness of technique and liquid phrasing. At times, he is the virtuoso, displaying his florid technique; but Ragin is also a singer of lyric breadth and remarkable warmth. That he can do both with such apparent ease is what makes him the artist he is.

- *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*

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