

Dryades Consort

The **Dryades Consort** was founded by Silvia Tecardi, bringing together viol players who all studied at the *Schola Cantorum Basiliensis*. They came to know and appreciate each other either while studying, or while working together later in ensembles including *Ensemble Daedalus* (Roberto Festa), *Les Flamboyants* (Michael Form), *Capricornus Consort Basel* (Peter Barczy) and *Ensemble Leones* (Marc Lewon). They all bring to the ensemble their long experience on the stage with all types of music from Medieval to Baroque, and are unified by a joy in musical exchange, in the search for delicate and nuanced differences in sound, and in forming musical phrases that sing.

Depending on the project, the ensemble varies in the number of players and in the type of instruments used. For this programme the consort is made up partly of original Renaissance instruments, and partly of reconstructions.

The *Dryads* or *Hamadryads* were the nymphs in ancient Greek mythology who acted as guardian spirits to the trees. If their tree died, their life would also end. To name the ensemble after the Dryads comes from the fancy that through the art of instrument-building and sensitive playing, the voices of these tree spirits can be returned to them.