

Jane Achtman

Jane Achtman began playing medieval fiddle at age nine and picked up the viol shortly thereafter. After receiving her degree in early music at the Akademie für Alte Musik in Bremen, Germany (viol with Sarah Cunningham) and further studies with Mary Springfels in Chicago, she was awarded a DAAD stipend to continue her studies at the Schola Cantorum Basiliensis in Switzerland (viol with Paolo Pandolfo, medieval fiddle with Randall Cook). She received her diploma in Early Music in 2002.

In 1997 Jane founded the ensemble Musicke&Mirth together with Irene Klein. Since its formation the ensemble has developed various programs in different constellations. It has been successful at competitions, winning prizes at the Dorian/EMA Recording Competition, the Premio Bonporti and the Van Wassenaer Concours. Two CDs have been published by Raumklang: Musicke&Mirth – Music for two Lyra Viols (2001) and Die Spinne im Netz (2004).

Jane is a member of the ensembles The Harp Consort (Channel Islands), Accentus (Austria) and Unicorn (Austria). She has worked with Kees Boeke, Pedro Memelsdorff and René Jacobs. Michael Hofstetter has repeatedly asked her to perform in opera productions and as a soloist with the L'Orchestre de Chambre Genève.

Her discography is varied, ranging from the 13th century “Play of Daniel” to Johann Sebastian Bach’s Fugues. She has recorded with the recording companies Erato, Harmonia Mundi France and bmg, among others. Jane regularly travels all over Europe and has traveled as far abroad as Israel, China, Japan, Iran and to the USA for concerts.

In addition to her teaching and concert activities on the viol, her interest in earlier repertoire has led her to specialize in medieval music.