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PRESS RELEASE

Nov 2013

Robert Holmin Ljud&Bild is proud to present its 10<sup>th</sup> recording, **Hours Well Spent** (RHLB10), a CD presenting 79 minutes of keyboard music performed by Anna Maria McElwain on the clavichord.

Anna Maria McElwain, Clavichord

The first recording of Anna Maria McElwain contains a wide selection of keyboard music beginning with the Ricercare of Andrea Gabrieli from the end of the 16<sup>th</sup> century and concluding with a Ligeti Capriccio from 1947. The title of the CD refers to the many hours the composers spent in making this music, as well as the time Anna Maria spent in mastering the difficulties of the repertoire on the CD, such as music of Bach and Saint-Saëns. It is of special interest to hear music which was not originally composed for the clavichord, such as Beethoven and Chopin.

The clavichord on this recording was built in 1808 by Pehr Lindholm and Söderström of Stockholm. It belongs to the Nydahl collection (Stiftelsen Musikkulturens Främjande, Stockholm) and has miraculously been preserved up to this day. It is a rather unique instrument with a wonderful sound.

*"McElwain showed herself to be a virtuoso who makes the clavichord resound with beauty and control in the most sensitive as well as emphatic moments."*

*Early Music Journal 11/12*

*"Anna Maria McElwain produced dramatic effects on a Swedish five-octave clavichord in music by Bach and Beethoven. Chopin's Raindrop Prelude revealed new dimensions as performed by her on the clavichord."*

*Tangents, Bulletin of the Boston Clavichord Society, fall 2012*

### Anna Maria McElwain

After studying at Turku Conservatory with Elzbieta Guzek Anna Maria McElwain continued her studies at State University of New York at Buffalo as a student of Dr. Stephen Manes. She completed a M.A. Degree in piano performance and a M.M. Degree in music theory at the age of 21. Since then she has specialized in the clavichord with Dr. Pekka Vapaavuori completing a M.M degree in clavichord performance at the Sibelius Academy. Currently Anna Maria McElwain performs internationally on historical keyboards and is one of the founders and artistic directors of The Nordic Historical Keyboard Festival.

Links:

Anna Maria McElwain: [www.annamariamcelwain.com](http://www.annamariamcelwain.com)

The instrument's location: Stiftelsen Musikkulturens Främjande [www.nydahllcoll.se](http://www.nydahllcoll.se)

Spotify: Hours Well Spent

Robert Holmin Ljud&Bild, Målargatan 1, 646 31 Gnesta, Sweden. +46 709482339

[www.soundspheres.com](http://www.soundspheres.com)