

# MARK FEWER, VIOLIN

Myron Lutzke, violoncello Kenneth Slowik, harpsichord



## PANDOLFI

### The Violin Sonatas of 1660

*Rare recording of the mysterious Baroque composer's only surviving works, sourced from the original prints from the Civic Museum in Bologna & the first recording to feature cello*

**Release date: January 10, 2011**



**For Immediate Release, January 3, 2011 ...** Mark Fewer, one of today's most acclaimed and adventurous violinists, joins harpsichordist **Kenneth Slowik** and cellist **Myron Lutzke** for a voyage 350 years back in time on a new recording of the complete sonatas of **Giovanni Antonio Pandolfi Mealli** for the Smithsonian's Friends of Music label. Pandolfi, born in Italy circa 1630 and a musician at the court of the Austrian Archduke Ferdinand Karl around 1660, was one of the Baroque era's most mysterious figures. Only two collections of his work, sonatas for violin and continuo - Op.3 and Op.4, published in 1660 - have survived, and these in unique prints now housed in Bologna's civic museum. The previous recording of these rare works by violinist Andrew Manze and harpsichordist Richard Egarr drew considerable praise. Fewer has chosen the more opulent continuo scoring of cello and harpsichord, and approaches the pieces with a freshness which shaves nearly 10% off the Manze/Egarr timings, thus presenting Pandolfi's sonatas in a new light.

Sprung from a period of an incredible blossoming in the refinement and development of the violin in northern Italy, Pandolfi and his contemporaries produced an almost feverish stream of compositions in the first part of the 17<sup>th</sup> century, expanding the technical and expressive resources of the violin. The violin's ability to mimic the human voice made it capable of "moving the passions" of its listeners in a unique fashion, as these sonatas beautifully demonstrate. While known to scholars since at least 1901, Pandolfi's sonatas received little attention until the mid 1980s. First derided for their "degradation of taste", the sonatas were later praised for their *stylus phantasticus*. Indeed, in their inventiveness and spectacular pyrotechnics, they have lost none of their freshness over three and a half centuries.

The Smithsonian Chamber Music Society "Friends of Music" (FoM) label was launched in 2009. For more information, please see: [www.smithsonianchambermusic.org](http://www.smithsonianchambermusic.org)



**MARK FEWER's** most recent recording, released in the fall on Azica Records, is the complete Brahms *Violin Sonatas* with pianist **Peter Longworth**. WholeNote called it "a fascinating and thought-provoking CD" while ClassicsToday agreed that "these performances are a pleasure." All Music Guide enthused that the CD "allow[s] listeners to savor every note, every chord, every subtly of Brahms' writing."

Recent performances include the world premiere of **Phil Dwyer's** Vivaldi-inspired *Changing Seasons* in Montreal ("faultless to a tee" - La Scena Musicale). Upcoming projects include music by American avant-garde composer **George Antheil** and new jazz arrangements inspired by **Stéphane Grappelli & Stuff Smith**. In April, Fewer will play the famous "Ole Bull" *Stradivarius* in a concert of Italian music with the **Smithsonian Chamber Players**.

For more information and upcoming concert dates, please see [www.markfewer.com](http://www.markfewer.com)

**MEDIA CONTACT:** [shira@shiragilbertPR.com](mailto:shira@shiragilbertPR.com) 514.585.3868 [www.shiragilbertPR.com](http://www.shiragilbertPR.com)

