

# CDs, DVDs & Blu-ray



## LOVE & LUST

Elizabeth Hungerford/  
Andrew Arceci

[www.cdbaby.com](http://www.cdbaby.com) – CD

☆☆☆



## AKSEL!

Aksel Rykkvin

SIGNUM SIGCD435 – CD

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What about those singers who don't have Netrebko and Yende's marketing machines to help their albums fly off the shelves, or even the money to record them in the first place? Crowdfunding is one way, and has proved successful for the next two releases. First is **Love & Lust**, by soprano Elizabeth Hungerford and Andrew Arceci on the viola da gamba, a collection of amorous 16th- and 17th-century songs, ranging from Purcell to Monteverdi, with a few rather more obscure offerings in between. Hungerford has a pure voice and is a spirited communicator in both English and Italian. She uses her instrument effectively, investing an essentially white tone with some splashes of colour by adding vibrato and crescendi: the downside is a tendency to overuse portamenti, where the voice yowls rather than slides. Arceci accompanies her sensitively and enjoys his own solos.

The second crowdfunded disc, released on the Signum label, is from Aksel Rykkvin,

a Norwegian treble who recorded his album aged 12. Be reassured, **Aksel!** is not the usual child star twaddle. Rykkvin certainly has a precocious musical sensibility, which coupled with his clear tones should make him a star if he lasts the course: he is obviously well looked after by seemingly baffled but proud parents and those with whom he works. His technique is excellent, with particularly fluent coloratura. The recording does reflect the challenge in finding suitable repertoire. Rykkvin is effective in Bach and Handel oratorios, and Mozart's 'Alleluia' really does show off his skills. In Oberto's arias from *Alcina* he emulates William Savage, the boy soprano who created the role for Handel, but doesn't have the maturity to convey the drama. His Cherubino arias are fun but remain a merrily piped party trick. Nigel Short's conducting and the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment's playing help keep things classy.

Another singer who is aiming to appeal to both classical