

# AMOUR CRUEL

An album by Emi Ferguson

What if Louis XIV were living today and curated his court composers with musicians like Beyoncé, Lana Del Rey, or Adele?

Using 17th century French songs as inspiration Emi Ferguson's debut album *Amour Cruel*, does just that, fusing together old instruments with modern styles and production to create an album full of soaring vocals accompanied by lush flutes, sparkling guitars, and a killer beat.



<http://www.bandcamp.com/emiferguson>



<http://www.facebook.com/emifergusonmusic>



<http://www.twitter.com/emiflutes>



<http://www.instagram.com/emiferguson>



<http://www.youtube.com/emiferguson>



<http://www.vimeo.com/arezzomusic>



<http://www.soundcloud.com/emiferguson>



# AMOUR CRUEL

## **Emi Ferguson Spins Tales of Love Gone Bad With New Bilingual**


For renowned musician Emi Ferguson, the lines between classical and pop music have long been blurred. As a vocalist and Juilliard trained flute player, one of her primary goals is to show that the lines we draw between genres are entirely of our own creation and largely 20th and 21st Century concepts. This was Ferguson's approach when she wrote and recorded *Amour Cruel*, an 11-song album in French and English, inspired by French compositions dating back to the 16th Century. The album is set for release on September 14th through Arezzo Music.

Ms. Ferguson imagined how these compositions would sound if they were produced as pop, R&B, jazz, folk, new age and world music. She envisioned modern versions of these French songs with artists such as Andrew Bird, Adele, Kanye West, or Arcade Fire performing at Versailles in the 17th Century.

"There is a thirst for an album of this nature," said Ms. Ferguson of her first vocal album. "Amour Cruel will resonate with people who might not necessarily listen to classical music, let alone early French Baroque songs. It pays homage to Early Music while combining it with contemporary Baroque Pop."

The lyrics of *Amour Cruel* are a mixture of English translations and original and pre-18th Century French poetry, each telling stories of tragic, unrequited, and lost love, often drawing reference to antiquity. Many of the lyrics speak to the influence of the Renaissance striving for the artistic ideals that were thought to be present in the golden age of antiquity. With *Amour Cruel*, Ms. Ferguson deconstructed and rebuilt songs of the past, turning them into works that resonate with today's audience.

"We assembled a team of musicians, who are virtuosi in several genres, and we fused the sounds of old instruments and new," Ms. Ferguson added. "We created a unique sound with a depth of diversity that will inspire audiences today - theorbos and electric guitars, baroque flutes and drum sets."





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## About Emi

English-American performer and composer Emi Ferguson stretches the boundaries of what is expected of modern-day musicians. Emi's unique approach to the flute can be heard in performances that alternate between the Silver Flute, Historical Flutes, and Auxiliary Flutes, playing repertoire that stretches from the Renaissance to today. Her debut album, *Amour Cruel*, an indie-pop song cycle inspired by the music of the 17th century French court is set to be released in September 2017.

Emi won First Prize in the National Flute Association's Young Artist Competition, the New York Flute Club Young Artist competition, the Mid-Atlantic Flute Competition, the Juilliard Concerto Competition, the J.C. Arriaga Chamber Music Competition, and was a recipient of the 2014 Salon de Virtuosi grant. She has spoken and performed at several TEDx events and has been featured on media outlets including The Discovery Channel and Juilliard Digital's TouchPress apps talking about how music relates to our world today.

Emi was a featured performer alongside Yo-Yo Ma, Paul Simon, and James Taylor at the 10th Anniversary Memorial Ceremony of 9/11 at Ground Zero, where her performance of *Amazing Grace* was televised worldwide. Her performance that day is now part of the permanent collection at the 9/11 Museum.

Having passions for both "new" and "old" music, Emi is the only flutist to have worked simultaneously with conductors James Levine, Pierre Boulez, and William Christie on modern and baroque flutes in Switzerland, New York, and France.

Emi is currently on the faculty of the Juilliard School. She was the first person to graduate from Juilliard with Undergraduate and Graduate degrees with Scholastic Distinction in flute performance, as well as a second Graduate degree in Historical Performance as a Paul and Daisy Soros Fellow. While pursuing her Undergraduate degree, Emi cross-registered at Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health studying Epidemiology.

Born in Japan and raised in London and Boston, she now resides in New York City.





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## Recent press

### All About Jazz, Peter Jurew

#### Emi Ferguson Amour Cruel

*"This emotion-packed song-cycle will appeal to fans of all musical genres—rich sounds pair instruments that would have been familiar to an 18th century audience with a modern pop-rock aesthetic."*

### Classical Sonoma, Lee Ormasa

#### Young Musicians Shine at Piano Sonoma Concert

*"Ms. Ferguson's sprightly flute virtuosity conveyed the emotional content of each movement beautifully."*

### Portland Press Herald, Allan Kozinn


#### Portland Bach Festival Beautifully Open to Interpretation

*"The performance was dazzling, its best moments having the quality of a jam session, in which Vivaldi pitted virtuosic violin and flute lines against each other, leaving it to the players to outshine each other in one flighty passage after another. Ferguson and Daskalakis responded vigorously to the challenge."*

### Maine Classical Beat, Christopher Hyde

#### A Revelatory Brandenburg 3

*"I have only heard flautist Emi Ferguson in works by Bach, but if she is equally good in other classics and moderns, Rampal may have to move over. I want to hear her Debussy. As she moved from one ballroom to the next, the only question was how she could possibly out-do what had gone before. The spectacular final Badinerie provided a definitive answer."*



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## Media

### Photographs

High resolution photographs available upon request.



### Videos



### Amour Cruel

[Vimeo](#)

[YouTube](#)

### Quand Le Flambeau

[Vimeo](#)

[YouTube](#)

### TEDX: Your Ears Deceive You

[YouTube](#)

# AMOUR CRUEL

## Album release show

For press tickets, please email: [info@emiferguson.com](mailto:info@emiferguson.com)  
More information at [eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.com).

September 14th, 2017  
7:00 doors, 7:30 pm show  
Esther and Carol Studio Lounge  
146 Bowery, New York



**AMOUR CRUEL**

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ALBUM RELEASE SHOW | SEPTEMBER 14TH, 2017  
7:30 PM | ESTHER & CAROL STUDIO LOUNGE | NYC

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EMI FERGUSON vocals and flutes JORDAN DODSON  
guitar PAUL HOLMES MORTON theorbo MIKE  
THURBER bass SAM BUDISH percussion AND MORE

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TICKETS \$15 IN ADVANCE | \$20 AT THE DOOR | DOORS OPEN AT 7PM  
WWW:AMOURCRUEL.COM

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## Contact

For press inquiries, please email: [info@emiferguson.com](mailto:info@emiferguson.com) or call 617-921-9337

More information available at: <http://www.emiferguson.com>



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