Duo Parisienne (Nancy Bean, violin and Pellegrina viola, and Anne Sullivan, harp) has been delighting audiences with a rich mix of favorites and great music from all over the world. They will present a program of violin/harp and viola/harp music on Sunday, September 24, 2017. The concert opens with G. F. Handel’s beloved aria from his opera “Xerxes.” Its eloquence, true to the opera itself, could well be tongue in cheek -- it is addressed to . . . a tree!

Next is a most unusual early Baroque piece by the great French viola da gambist Marin Marais, his “Gallbladder Operation.” It comes complete with a hair-raising narrative account of the horrific (in those days) procedure to remove a kidney stone from someone’s bladder. (The inaccurate title has stuck, however, even though gallstones weren’t surgically removed until the 19th century.) The narrator will be Kathryn Tusler, known to you as “the CD Lady” but also known to us as a most talented voice-over artist. She will be leaving the back table to take her place onstage for this remarkably descriptive piece, which happily ends well with a lengthy and very joyous section called “The Recovery!”

The first half of the program concludes with Franz Schubert’s wonderful “Arpeggione” Sonata. It was written for an obscure instrument of six strings, shaped rather like a guitar but played like a cello. The instrument did not survive but the music has, fitting Nancy’s Pellegrina viola and harp perfectly.

Following the intermission will be a series of favorites -- Gounod’s unique treatment of J. S. Bach’s prelude as “Ave Maria;” Cesar Cui’s iconic “Orienteale;” and Jacques Ibert’s brilliant “Entr’acte” with its very Spanish flavor. Interspersed is Anne’s inspired transcription of what has been called the greatest rock song ever written -- Led Zeppelin’s “Stairway to Heaven.”

The concert concludes with a stirring performance of Tomaso Vitali’s great virtuosic masterpiece, his impressive “Chaconne.”