



LOVER OF THE CLASSICS

*Monica Huggett's interests are grounded in tradition,
while her achievements are cutting-edge*

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by Inga Sorensen

photos by Linda Kliever

Sometimes those at the very top of their fields have dreams, too.

"My girlfriend and I dream of getting a Tudor farmhouse in Dorset," muses the London-born-and-bred Monica Huggett, a professed lover of classical music and one of the world's great masters of baroque violin.

Somehow it is not surprising that the 41-year-old artist, who performs the music of the baroque period (classified by music scholars as the period beginning as early as 1570 in Italy and

ending during the second half of the 18th century with the deaths of Bach and Handel in 1750 and 1759, respectively), would find herself attracted to the historic. "If your home is very old, you can almost envision the musicians of the past playing the music that you love. You can picture them there. It's very spiritual."

Perhaps Huggett, who is the artistic director designate of the Portland Baroque Orchestra, can be described as an ambassador whose responsibility it is to meld past with present. Her interests are grounded in tradition (most notably her passion for early music

and historic homes), while her achievements are remarkably cutting-edge. On the day of our interview, the cherubic-faced Huggett was savoring the sun in California's coastal town of Santa Cruz, her first visit to the beach enclave where bikini-clad women can be found playing volleyball every day of the week. With English accent, she spoke not of playing sports in the sand, but of playing the violin from the age of six. She spoke of Mozart, of Europe, of being one of the few women conductors of early music, and of being a lesbian.

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