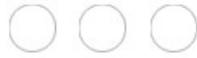


Ensemble  
Gilles Binchois



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Song of songs

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*Your neck is like an ivory tower...  
Your cheeks are beautiful with earrings,  
Your neck with strings of jewels...  
Come my beloved, my dove, my beautiful one  
show me your face, let me hear your voice  
for your voice is sweet, and your face is lovely...*

These few lines reveal the lyric flavour of this long poem. In the direct line of persian poetry, attributed to king Salomon, this book has been included in the Bible though previously rejected because of its profane and sensual character. The jewish tradition and then the christian one have wanted to see there a symbolic avowal of the love between God and his people, between Christ and his Church.

Nevertheless, such a poetic eloquence, such a love exaltation, have inspired artists for centuries, and many musicians have composed wonderful pieces on this poem, transposing on occasion this exaltation into fervour for the Virgin : Palestrina, Monteverdi, Grandi, Banchieri, Cavalli, Rossi, Frescobaldi... contributed with their finest art.

Our purpose was to take a start on some motets of those italian Masters to open the programme to more contemporary expression of the same text : 2 suites for voice and viols and an instrumental piece for 3 viols, composed by Dominique Vellard.

Anne-Marie Lablaude, soprano  
Anne Delafosse, soprano  
Dominique Vellard, tenor  
Margaux Blanchard, viol  
Sarah Van Oudenhove, viol  
Robin Pharo, viol  
Patrick Ayrton, organ



Le Cantique des cantiques - Marc Chagall (Musée Chagall, Nice)

*« I often had the opportunity to sing the perfect jewels that represent the 17<sup>th</sup>c. motets for voice and continuo -particularly those from Monteverdi and Schütz-, I always was impressed by their way to set in a few minutes, with a tremendous efficacy, a poetic and musical space that seized you. You are positively immersed in a lively colourful and contrasted world, from fluency and virtuosity to tenderness, serenity, peace.*

*Those great composers, though familiar with more important musical forms and staff (polychoral pieces, diversified instrumental colours), can give in these sacred motets, with one or two voices and a continuo, the more moving and lyric expression of their art. The words become music and music poetry.*

*This freedom in the vocal expression, I aimed to make it feel in my compositions ; and which text could inspire more this freedom than this elating dialogue between the lover and the beloved ?*

*In a contrapuntic dialogue with the warm and delicate resonances of the viols, the singing follows the pattern of baroque prosody ; the voice, when declaiming or lingering on a syllable to flourish a word, does not swerve from the early italian baroque ideal.*

Dominique Vellard

BUDGET : 7000 € + TRAVELS (3 from Dijon-1 from Lyon-3 from Paris) + 2 HOTEL NIGHTS