



Ensemble
Gilles Binchois



Festivous mass at the 'Medici' court

Missa « VIRGO PRUDENTISSIMA »

Heinrich Isaac, v.1450 - 1517

Born in Flandres around 1450, Heinrich Isaac during his whole life has been close to the Medici family in Florence. He went there, very young, to complete his musical education and staid to begin his career as a singer and teacher. He was then invited by Maximilien the 1rst to the Austrian court and never ceased to practise his talents as much in the Holy Roman Empire of Germany as in Italy.

We chose to place the performing of this mass at the very end of his life when, returned to the city which had been so important for him, he will die in 1517. Coming back to Florence, Isaac brought with him the music which made him famous in Europe, in particular the luxuriant 6 voices mass " Virgo prudentissima " composed from one of the motets which he had dedicated to Maximilien Ier around 1507.

This masterpiece synthesizes his whole art, it is a striking example of Isaac's ingenuity in the use of the *cantus firmus*; the text of the antiphon is skillfully allocated alternately in the various voices and enables to build a rich sonority where intermingle the texts of the antiphon and of the ordinary of the Mass.

Rarely the polyphony of this period reached such a degree of sound richness and perpetually renewed creativity.

Major work of a composer much sought-after in his time, it does not stop seducing today's audience.

Ensemble Gilles Binchois

Anne Delafosse, soprano
Anne-Marie Lablaude, soprano
Yukie Sato, soprano
Roman Melish, alto
Vincent Lièvre-Picard, tenor
Stephan Van Dyck, tenor
Dominique Vellard, tenor & artistic director
Giacomo Schiavo, baritone
Tim Scott Witheley, bass



MISSA VIRGO PRUDENTISSIMA

- messe à 6 voix de Heinrich Isaac -
plain-chant pour les Fêtes de la Vierge : ms. n.41 - Duomo, Firenze

GAUDEAMUS OMNES IN DOMINO / VIRGO PRUDENTISSIMA - à 4 voix
(Choralis Constantinus II) de Heinrich Isaac

Introït : Salve sancta parens - plain chant

KYRIE

GLORIA

Graduel : *Benedicta et venerabilis es - plain-chant*

Alleluia, post partum - plain-chant

Alleluia, Virga Jesse - plain-chant

Lecture : Sequentia sancti evangelii

CREDO

Offertoire : *Ave Maria - plain-chant*

Préface

SANCTUS

AGNUS DEI

Communion : *Beata viscera - plain-chant*

& BEATA VISCERA - à 4 voix
(Choralis Constantinus II) de Heinrich Isaac

Ite Missa est

*Le programme "Missa Virgo prudentissima" de l'ensemble Gilles Binchois a bénéficié du soutien de la
Cité de la Voix - Vézelay*

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