



From Toledo to Venice

a journey through Renaissance polyphony

The bonds of friendship become more resonant when they result in shared endeavors. The recent creation of *The Sonadori Ensemble* means that the long held wish to share a part of this journey with the voices of *The Gilles Binchois Ensemble* has become reality. Combining voices with instruments is far from new but this instrumental ensemble is highly original and innovative.

The Sonadori, an ensemble of Renaissance violins, is unparalleled in the world today and reintroduces us to sounds that only those alive in the 16th and 17th centuries could have heard. These violin families were so renowned during the Renaissance that musicians were invited to royal courts all over Europe and were required, amongst other things, to play in consort with singers. The uniform timbres of the violin family complement the voices harmoniously well.

This blending enables 4 to 12 voice polyphonies that associate contrapuntal compositions with polychoral works that developed at the time.

Toledo and Venice, two cities that inspire imagination, two leading artistic centres during the Renaissance. The journey we have imagined from one to the other highlights the ties that bind them, both in the musical life of the Court itself and the similarity in writing between composers such as Morales, Victoria, Willaert and Andrea Gabrieli. The union of the voices of the Gilles Binchois Ensemble with the six differently sized violins of the Sonadori Ensemble gives the works of these composers a variety of tones ranging from the clarity of the voices on their own to the sonorous plenitude of the two choruses together.



ENSEMBLE GILLES BINCHOIS & LES SONADORI
7 vocalists & 6 violins