

Missa « VIRGO PRUDENTISSIMA » Heinrich Isaac, v.1450 - 1517

Born in Flanders around 1450, Heinrich Isaac stayed close to the Medicis Family in Florence all his life. Arriving when he was very young in order study, he subsequently worked as a singer and teacher. Invited to the court of Maximilian I of Austria in 1496, he never ceased during the years that follow to use his talents both in the Holy Roman Empire and in Italy.

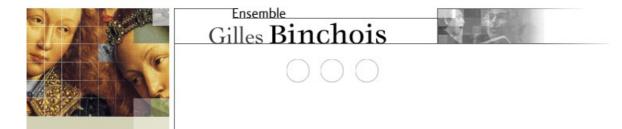
We have chosen to place the performing of this mass at the very end of his life in the city that counted so much for him and where he died in 1517, supposing that, returning to Florence, Isaac brought with him the music that had made him famous throughout Europe and in particular the sumptuous mass for 6 voices Virgo prudentissima based on one of the motets that he had dedicated to Maximilian I in around 1507. This masterpiece is a synthesis of his artistry and a stunning example of Isaac's inventiveness in its use of the cantus firmus. The words of the antiphon are skilfully distributed alternatively between the different voices and manages to create a richness of sound in which the words of the antiphon and the Ordinary of the Mass blend together.

Early Renaissance polyphony has rarely attained such a high degree of sonorous plenitude and perpetually renewed invention. This major work by a much admired composer in his own lifetime, never ceases to beguile still to this today.

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





