



## Ensemble Gilles Binchois



### 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 to 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





Ensemble  
**Gilles Binchois**



**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*

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*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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