



FONS LUMINIS

The Santa María la Real de Las Huelgas Manuscript

It is with the words **fons luminis** that Johannes Roderici, the compiler of this manuscript, gives thanks to the power of God in one of his compositions. We have tried to drink from the spring he bequeathed to us in order to render anew its purity and force.

The manuscript from the royal monastery of Las Huelgas in Spain has fascinated musicians and medieval musicologists for nearly 100 years. The collection, put together at the beginning of the 14th century in this Cistercian monastery near Burgos, contains 179 musical works of great importance and variety. The texted music brings together archaic music, numerous works which come directly from the Notre Dame School in Paris, and compositions written specifically for the monastery (the nuns to this day have retained a vocal style which seems to testify to an uninterrupted tradition).

The musical notation follows no system used at the time and instead uses elements of a number of different systems in a very pragmatic fashion. This complexity has posed a major headache to all those who have attempted to tackle the works.

The Gilles Binchois Ensemble have often performed works from this manuscript and thanks to a new understanding of the notation – in particular, concerning the monodic part of the repertoire –, they have decided to revisit it again basing their interpretation on these recent discoveries.

Four female and four male singers from the ensemble will perform the Organums, Benedicamus Domino, conductus and monodic and polyphonic sequences, motets, planctus and the chants of the Ordinary of the Mass, thus reviving some of the masterpieces contained in this collection.

Ensemble Gilles Binchois

Anne Delafosse, soprano
Anne-Marie Lablaude, soprano
Yukie Sato, soprano
Christel Boiron, mezzo-soprano
Giovanni Cantarini, tenor
Dominique Vellard, tenor and direction
Giacomo Schiavo, baritone
Cyprien Sadek, baritone

