



Neuma PROJECT

2 voices & 2 saxophones

"my end is my BEGINNING and my
BEGINNING, my end"

On one side of the history, music written between 1200 and 1500, the Notre Dame School of Paris, Machaut, Italian Lauds from the 15th century, compositions by Agricola and Josquin

On the other, music from the 20th and 21st centuries, Bartok, Stravinsky, Berio, as well as arrangements on traditional songs

In between: Bach, the giant, the first one to escape the vocal model, thereby giving the instrumental gesture its full autonomy.

Twentieth century composers have often looked to early music and traditional folk music in order to inspire them anew. They discover new paths to travel down, both in terms of rhythm (syllabic meter, asymmetrical, free rhythm) and to throw off the shackles of tonality by adopting new modal systems. They discover new kinds of ornamentation, separate vocal and instrumental techniques, contrapuntal styles as well defined as those of the Notre Dame School in Paris, of Guillaume de Machaut or Bach.

The challenge is therefore to link, either by affinity or contrast, music which is chronologically very far apart, but sometimes remarkably similar.

During the conception of this project, we soon found that the sonorities, the phrasing, the voicing of the saxophones replied to the singers' expression and that certain compositions by Bach and Machaut were, paradoxically, well suited to be played on saxophones.

The title of this concert, "My end is my beginning"... and my beginning my end", was self-evident since it links two opposing poles in the history of music. More : Machaut wrote an incredible mirrored composition that bears this very name and Max Reger paid homage to the central figure of this same history of music when he declared, "Bach is the beginning and end of all music"



BINCHOIS meets xasax :

TWO VOICES AND TWO
SAXOPHONES, a DIALOGUE
BETWEEN TWO WORLDS :
early music and music from
THE MODERN AND
CONTEMPORARY PERIOD.

a CONVERSATION BETWEEN
BRIEF AND CONCENTRATED
FORMS THAT, BEYOND THEIR
SPECIFIC MUSICAL WAYS,
are CONNECTED BY SHARING
a MELODIC MODAL APPROACH.

