



BARCELONE MASS & APT MANUSCRIPT

Splendours of polyphony at
the Popes court in Avignon

At the beginning of the 14th century, the Popes court in Avignon became the center of the development of an innovative musical style: the Ars Nova. This musical "avant-garde" will influence most of the European courts, such as the court of Aragon, which had close connections with the papacy. The Barcelona Mass is the result of these exchanges.

The music of the papal chapel is partially preserved in the manuscript of Apt. Entirely dedicated to polyphony, it contains compositions of a great stylistic variety. We used this very rich fund to reconstruct a mass, just as a "maestro di capella" of the Popes court could have compiled at the end of the 14th century. These pieces, which we assembled to reply to the Barcelona mass, form a second and entirely new part of the repertoire of the Popes court.

The whole repertoire of this program is performed according to an entirely new transcription (from Brice Ramondec).

Our version of the Barcelona mass follows scrupulously the manuscript preserved in Barcelona and for the compiled mass, the transcription has been done in compliance with the ms. 16bis of the Apt Treasury. The Hymns and motets chosen to intersperse the continuity of the 2 masses are also taken from Apt manuscript or from an Aragonese source preserved in Madrid.

If the Barcelona mass has acquired a certain fame, as an emblematic example of 14th century music - and for the beauty of its 4-voice Agnus Dei - the rest of this program is entirely new and some of these pieces are performed here for the first time.



a masterpiece
OF THE 14TH CENTURY
POLYPHONIC MUSIC
DIALOGING WITH
UNKNOWN PIECES
OF THE APT MANUSCRIPT.

HERE, VOICES AND FIDDLES
COMBINE TO REVEAL
THE VERY SPLENDOR OF THE
MUSIC THAT SOUNDED IN THE
POPES CHAPEL IN AVIGNON.

