



## VIRGO MATER

Perotin

Notre-Dame school  
new compositions



The Notre Dame School emerges as one of the most fascinating and most successful phenomena in the history of Western music and may be regarded as the greatest French school of composition of all time. Like all the important creations in Western music, it shows an ideal balance between tradition and modernity: using the gregorian modality and developing the polyphonic earlier experiences, it anticipates novelty. This unique melting pot, bringing together all the elements required for an exceptional creation to flourish, was Europe's leading light for almost a hundred years.

Fascinating by the extreme freedom of its counterpoint at the same time as by the homogenous sonority - so recognizable - that it projects, its music still passionates today esthetes and contemporary composers.

Perotin – presumed to be the leading master of this parisian repertoire – may be regarded as the first composer in the Western sense of the term : using the heritage of Leonin, he showed, for the first time in musical history, a desire to master the structure and balance of the melodic formulas in the different voices. In his organa, for example, we are witnessing the real birth of musical lines which lay the foundations of western melodic balance.

Largely inspired by medieval monodies and polyphonies, Dominique Vellard regularly composes pieces for the singers of his ensemble. Fascinated by these medieval repertoires, he strives to develop in his compositions the same vocality and related forms and techniques: conducti, syllabic tempo, ornamented monodie, full sonority specific to the spiritual dynamics of Church music. His polyphonic style is also largely inspired by Georgian and Mediterranean polyphonies. In this program on the maternity of the Virgin and the Christmas period, he chose to include 3 of his compositions.

Repertoire sources Florence and Wolfenbuttel ms : Perotin's organum quadruplum Viderunt, 3 voices Benedicamus Domino organum, 2 voices motets and conducti, plain-chant / D.Vellard compositions : Magnificat, Ave Regina cœlorum & A summo cœlo.

**BETWEEN TRADITION  
AND MODERNITY,  
ONE OF THE MOST  
FASCINATING ARTISTIC  
PHENOMENA IN THE  
HISTORY OF MUSIC !  
AS AN AUTHENTIC  
ARCHITECT, PEROTIN  
LAID THE FOUNDATIONS  
OF THE WESTERN  
MELODIC BALANCE**

**ensemble  
GILLES BINCHOIS**

Anne-Marie LABLAUDE

Ariane LE FOURNIS

Vincent LIEVRE-PICARD

Matthieu ROMANENS

Giacomo SCHIAVO

Dominique VELLARD

Sébastien BROHIER



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*..This festive singing has for long found leading performers in the musicians of the Ensemble Gilles Binchois. The repertoire is very familiar to them. They travel in it with obvious pleasure, marking their discography of the set of markers that appear over time as indispensable...In this recording, we find the same clarity in the diction, the same interiority indispensable for liturgical music. With perhaps, in addition, maturity acquired in a long common practice... The momentum is always the same, but light and colors have increased in intensity opening the mind to a new mystical experience. "*

*François Camper -CLASSICA-RÉPERTOIRE*

*"...You have to enjoy the refinement of the colors and the combination of the voices in the two-parts pieces to get an idea of the magnificence generated in the great 3 or 4 parts polyphonies .."*

*Marc Desmet-LE MONDE DE LA MUSIQUE*