



Le Prince D'Amours

Songs from
Guillaume Dufay
(1400-1474)

The song is the musical form in which Dufay could express at best his huge talent. Each one of his 84 songs is a masterpiece, a jewel of infinite precision. Written in French and Italian (some of them in Latin), they offer a vast diversity in texts and in realization alike, allowing to hear the constant evolution of his aesthetics from his first to his last compositions.

Whatever its purpose, whatever its form (song of May, of love, New Year, lament, solemnity...), Dufay has made of every song an absolute achievement, in composition as well as in the expression of feelings, always marked by lyricism and great sweetness.

Travelling musician, interested in immersing himself into new styles, he fed on many influences throughout his life : he discovered English music at the Council of Constance and then traveled to Italy where he successively served at the Malatesta court in Rimini, then in Florence, Bologna, at the Papal chapel in Rome, then at the court of Savoy... Then he spent more and more time in his region of origin, Cambrai, where he finally withdrew in 1458 and died in 1474.

In the 15th century courts, such as the Malatesta or Savoy, music accompanies many moments; the song is the delight of every day, it conveys poetry, expresses passions, remedies grieves, sublime the richness of love relationships. The song is an art of conviviality, complicity and connivance with the audience, an expression of sweetness, it charms the delicate ear through the intimate union of music and poetry and fascinates by the mastery and refinement of its means. Dufay has been able, with great delicacy, to sublimate this art.



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*Dufay-Binchois : « Triste plaisir et douloureuse joye » - Harmonic records 1987
« Le Banquet du Vœu » - Virgin 1991