



## VIRGO MATER

Perotin  
Notre-Dame school  
new compositions  
& improvisations

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.

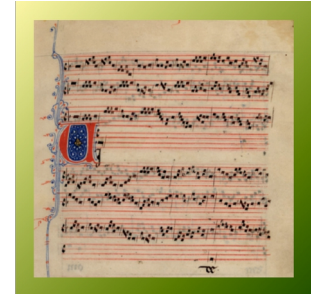
Perotin – presumed to be the leading master of this parisian repertoire – may be regarded as the first composer in the Western sense of the term : using the heritage of Leonin, he showed, for the first time in musical history, a desire to master the structure and balance of the melodic formulas in the 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 2 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.

*"Performing this program in the abbey of Münstair in Switzerland, we had the privilege of sharing it with violinist and composer Helena Winkelman. She improvised, preluding, binding, responding to the five voices of the ensemble and bringing thus a new dimension, a totally seducing opening. So we decided to propose our "Virgo mater" program with her participation".*

*Dominique Vellard*



**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

Vincent LIEVRE-PICARD  
Matthieu ROMANENS  
Giacomo SCHIAVO  
Dominique VELLARD  
Sébastien BROHIER

### GUEST

Helena WINKELMAN  
violin

[Teaser Virgo mater](#)

[Winkelman/Bach](#)