

THE COLLEGIUM MUSICUM

C66
1997
12-13
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DAT 13, 155
CASS 13, 156
CD1 #14, 336
CD2 #14337

A MEDIEVAL ENGLISH CHRISTMAS

DIRECTED BY DOUG FULLINGTON AND JOANN TARICANI

Saturday, December 13, 1997 8:00 P.M.

Sunday, December 14, 1997 2:00 P.M.

Brechemin Auditorium, School of Music

PROGRAM

DAT

ID1 "VENI, VENI EMMANUEL" (polyphonic song -- 13th century)

CD1

THE ANNUNCIATION

CD2

the play of prophecy and the greeting of the Angel Gabriel to Mary

"FLOS REGALIS VIRGINALIS" (conductus -- 14th century)

"EX SEMINE HABRAHE / EX SEMINE ROSA" (motet -- 13th century)

"GAUDE VIRGO SALUTATA / SPIRITUS ET ALME" (motet -- 14th century)

"AVE MARIA, GRACIA PLENA / AVE BEATISSIMA" (motet -- 13th century)

"NOVA! NOVA! AVE FIT EX 'EVA'" (monophonic song -- 15th century)

33'

ID2
CD3

JOSEPH'S TROUBLE ABOUT MARY

the play of Joseph's concerns about the father of Mary's child

"AVE MARIA SALUS HOMINUM" (conductus -- 14th century)

"EX SEMINE HABRAHE / EX SEMINE ROSA" (motet -- 13th century)

"BEATA VISCERA MARIE VIRGINIS" (conductus -- 14th century)

16'

Cass side A
side B

CD1

INTERMISSION

CD2

ID3

CD1

INSTRUMENTAL INTERLUDE

"IN BETHLEHEM" (instrumental version of a motet -- 13th century)

"IN SECLUM VIELLATORIS" (instrumental motet -- 13th century)

ESTAMPIE (improvisation on "Gaude Maria" -- 14th century)

7'

ID4

THE NATIVITY CD2

the play of the birth of Christ in a stable

"O SPONSA DEI ELECTA" (conductus -- 14th century)

"LULLAY, LULLAY: ALS I LAY ON YOOLIS NIGHT" (monophonic song -- 14th century)

"SALVE VIRGO VIRGINUM" (conductus -- 14th century)

"QUI CREAVIT CELUM" (monophonic song -- 14th century)

"EDI BEO" (polyphonic song -- 14th century)

"PROCENDENTI PUERI" (conductus -- 13th century)

27'

PLEASE HOLD YOUR APPLAUSE UNTIL THE CONCLUSION OF EACH SECTION -- THANK YOU!

The York cycle of mystery plays is one of the great literary monuments England from the middle ages, created in the late 14th century during the period when Chaucer was composing his *Canterbury Tales*. The full cycle is an immense work of 49 plays, with 300 speaking parts, covering the biblical history of the world, from the Creation through the Last Judgement. York guilds presented the cycle almost every year from the late 1300s to the late 1500s. In the past fifty years, the York plays have enjoyed a revival in the city of York and beyond.

In this performance, we are focusing upon portions of three of the Nativity plays in the cycle. "The Annunciation" begins with a brief reference to the fall from Paradise (an earlier play in the cycle), presents a series of prophecies by a learned man, "The Doctor," about the birth of Christ to a maiden of Israel descended from the tree (or rod) of Jesse, then culminates in the greeting and annunciation of the angel Gabriel to Mary. "Joseph's Trouble about Mary" opens with a monologue of complaint by Joseph about the manipulation involved in his marriage to Mary (he unwittingly volunteered in temple), then proceeds to his concerns about the true father of her child. Joseph confronts Mary, repeatedly asking who fathered her child, and disbelieving her answer – their bickering provides some lightweight counterpoint to the serious theme of the plays. Admonished by the angel Gabriel, Joseph reconciles with Mary, and they proceed to Bethlehem. There, in "The Nativity," Christ is born to Mary, and is nestled between the beasts in the stable to keep warm, while Joseph and Mary marvel at their child.

The music you will hear is designed to amplify the themes of the plays – while these pieces would not necessarily have been presented in a performance of the plays, the texts of the musical selections delve into the central ideas of the dialogue of the characters. The music can be found in British sources from the 13th and 14th centuries.

We are presenting the plays in the original Middle English so that you might appreciate the meter and the musicality of the original language. We hope that by providing a transliteral translation, in contemporary computer-generated "illuminations," that you will be able to appreciate the poetry and power of the plays' language.

-- J. Taricani

THE PLAYERS

"THE DOCTOR" – PROF. MÍCÉAL VAUGHAN

"JOSEPH" – PROF. JOHN COLDEWEY

"MARY" – MELISSA WALTER

"GABRIEL" – COURTNEY CHESSE

BETH ANTONOPULOS, *recorder*

DOUG FULLINGTON, *voice*

MARK POWELL, *voice*

RENAE DUPUIS, *voice*

NOREEN JACKY, *strings*

MOLLY SEIBERT, *voice*

RON FULLERTON, *strings*

CHING-TZY KO, *strings*

JOANN TARICANI, *recorder*

TRANSLATIONS (BASED ON J.S. PURVIS) AND SLIDES PREPARED BY PROFESSOR JOANN TARICANI

Thanks to Margriet Tindemans for her assistance and loan of instruments