presents its 12th program of the 1988-89 season:

THE MADRIGAL SINGERS
Joan Catoni Conlon, Director

COLLEGIUM MUSICUM
Margriet Tindemans, Director

in

NOWELL, NOWELL

A Program of Christmas Music from the Middle Ages and Renaissance

December 5 and 6, 1988
8:00 PM, Brechemin Auditorium
PROGRAM

THE COLLEGIUM MUSICUM

Throughout the ages Christmas has been the occasion for exuberant festivities within and outside the church. The miracle of the birth of Jesus Christ from the Virgin Mother continues to capture our imagination as it has done for centuries. Christmas was the time when the community of believers actually participated in the church rituals. Elements of ancient folklore, even traces of older pagan rites were tolerated by the Church officials at Christmastime as a means of bringing the faith closer to the people.

Musically speaking, it is in the medieval songs for the Christmas season that we can catch a glimpse of the musical tradition of the lower classes, a tradition that because of its entirely oral transmission is largely lost to us today.

The earlier songs in this program bear evidence of this type of music—songs intended to be sung by the community or in more complex polyphony and ornamentation by professional singers during the services for the festive Christmas season.

ITALIAN, 15TH CENTURY
VERBUM CARO FACTUM EST

FRENCH, 12TH CENTURY
ORIENTIS PARTIBUS
VERBUM CARO FACTUM EST
VERBUM PATRIS HUMANATUR

ENGLISH, 12TH CENTURY
ORA PRO NOBIS BEATE NICHOLAE
CONGAUDET HODIE

FRENCH, 12TH CENTURY
LULLAY, LULLAY

ENGLISH, 15TH CENTURY
NOWELL, NOWELL
AVE REX ANGELORUM
AN HEAVENLY SONG

VERBUM CARO FACTUM EST is done here instrumentally. The tune is a very old one, but we use a 15th century Italian setting, written in a slightly archaic two-part counterpoint.

ORIENTIS PARTIBUS presents the ass which carried the Virgin on her flight into Egypt. It was to be sung while procession to the altar, sometimes in the presence of a real live ass! The song was very popular judging from the many sources in which it appeared.

VERBUM PATRIS HUMANATUR is a 12th century strophic song with refrain and tells us about the miraculous conception and birth of Jesus Christ.

ORA PRO NOBIS BEATE NICHOLAE is a prayer to St. Nicholas, the patron saint of children, who is celebrated on December 6.
CONGAUDET HODIE: “Today the court of heaven is rejoicing: our Saviour is born from the Virgin Mary’s womb.” Both pieces are from the school of St. Martial in Limoges, a monastery famous in the 11th and 12th centuries for its new and daring experiments with polyphony and for its virtuosic singing style.

The carols NOWELL, LULLAY, AVE REX ANGELORUM and AN HEAVENLY SONG represent the written residue of a vast body of popular tunes now lost.

In LULLAY, LULLAY, the child Jesus asks his Mother to sing him a lullaby and she tells him the story of the Annunciation, his birth, and the gathering of shepherds around his crib.

AVE REX ANGELORUM is sung by one of the three Kings offering gold to the King of angels, and hails the Prince of the Sky.

In AN HEAVENLY SONG the day is celebrated when God came from his empire, and was laid by ox and ass.

Margriet Tindemans

THE MADRIGAL SINGERS

MICHAEL PRAETORIUS (1571-1621)
EN NATUS EST EMANUEL
Emmanuel is born, Lord of all! As foretold by Gabriel, he is Saviour of the world!

ORLANDUS LASSUS (1532-1594)
DOMINE, DOMINUS NOSTER
O Lord, our lord, thy wondrous name is praised throughout the earth!

THOMAS MORLEY (1557-1602)
GAUDE MARIA VIRGO
We sing praises to the Virgin Mary who has given us
Christ, the Lord; to Mary, eternal and inviolable...
Mary, most just, as beautiful as the dawn, sweet and kind,
O Mary, most elect!

JOHANN HERMANN SCHEIN (1586-1630)
ANGELUS AD PASTORES AIT
The angels said to the shepherds, ‘Rejoice greatly, for today is born the Saviour of the world, Alleluia!’

GIOVANNI PIERLUIGI DA PALESTRINA (1525-1594),
SICUT CERVUS DESIDERAT AD FONTES
Like as the hart desireth the waterbrook, so longeth my soul after Thee, O Lord...

RICHARD DEERING (c. 1580-1630)
QUEM VIDISTIS PASTORES?
Whom did you see, shepherds? Tell us.
We saw the child, and all the choir of angels...
singing ‘Alleluia!’...

INTERMISSION

GIOVANNI MARIA NANINO (1545-1607)
DIFFUSA EST GRATIA
Molded in grace are thy lips, thou eternally blest...
fragrances of myrrh, aloes, cassia adorn thy garments...
kings’ daughters are among thine honorable women...

JAN PIETERSZOOI SWEELINCK (1562-1621),
HODIE CHRISTUS NATUS EST
Today, Christ is born! The Saviour appeareth. Angels sing their praises to men on earth, ‘Glory to God on high; Alleluia!”

THE COLLEGIUM MUSICUM and MADRIGAL SINGERS

English, 15th century
DEO GRATIAS
English, 15th century
O BLESSED LORD
GIOVANNI GABRIELI
HODIE CHRISTUS NATUS EST
(1557-1612)
GIROLAMO FRESCOBALDI
CANZON SOPRA ROMANESCA
(1583-1643)
JOHANN HERMANN SCHEIN
O JESULEIN, MEIN JESULEIN
(1586-1630)
HIERONYMUS PRAETORIUS
JOSEPH, LIEBER JOSEPH MEIN
(1560-1629)

Giovanni Gabrieli wrote his polychoral pieces for use in the San Marco in Venice, with each of the choirs (vocal or instrumental) positioned on a different balcony for an early stereo effect! HODIE CHRISTUS NATUS EST uses two choirs. This technique of writing was not limited to Italy, and Hieronymus Praetorius used it for his setting of JOSEPH, LIEBER JOSEPH MEIN. This song, still widely known and sung in Germany, can be traced back to the 14th century.

Frescobaldi’s CANZON is based on the ROMANESCA. This was one of the so-called Italian Tenors, chord progressions used to improvise dance music on.
THE COLLEGIUM MUSICUM
Voices, recorders, viols, lute, harps, shawms, sackbut, harpsichord and bells:
Joseph Bichsel
Cynthia Beitem
John Gibbs
Charles Hiestand
Richard Hill
Andrew Hillaker
Vincent Ranger
Kristine Rinn
Viktoria Seibert
Irene Senedak
Pamela Silimperi
Jon Walwick
Sarah Weiner
Nancy Wright

with
Peggy Monroe, Amanda Simmons, Ellen Seibert

THE MADRIGAL SINGERS
Kathleen Anderson
Laura Ash
Robert Bavis
Cynthia Beitem
Diane Cornell
Thomas Cox
Peter Drury
Mark Grote
Catherine Guilhemetonia
Susan Hamp
Elizabeth Hasse
Robert Holcomb
Gretchen Hubbert
Suzanne Moles
Jeffrey Petryk
Ted Rosenberger
Greg Stone
Robert Tangney
Dianne Vars

UPCOMING EARLY MUSIC PROGRAMS

February 5.................................FACULTY RECITAL
MARGRIET TINDEMANS, viola da gamba
CAROLE TERRY, harpsichord
Music by Hume, Bach, Couperin, Abel
8:00 PM, Brechemin Auditorium

April 16.................................COLLEGIUM MUSICUM
NEW MUSIC FOR EARLY INSTRUMENTS
Music by Volans, Kuss, Monroe, and others
8:00 PM, Brechemin Auditorium

May 19 and 20............................COLLEGIUM MUSICUM
CANTIGAS DE SANTA MARIA
13th century Spanish songs about the miracles of the Virgin Mary
8:00 PM, Brechemin Auditorium

May 27.................................BAROQUE CHAMBER ENSEMBLE
8:00 PM, Brechemin Auditorium
UPCOMING CONCERTS:
December 6, University Percussion Ensemble, 8:00 PM, Studio Theater
December 7, University Chorale, 8:00 PM, Meany Theater
December 8, Keyboard Debut Series, 8:00 PM, Brechemin Auditorium
December 9, Young Composers, 8:00 PM, Brechemin Auditorium
December 10, Doctoral Recital: Pamela B. Ryker, flute, 8:00 PM, Brechemin Auditorium
January 10, University Masters Series: Robin McCabe, piano, 8:00 PM, Meany Theater
January 25, University Symphony, 8:00 PM, Meany Theater
January 30, Studio Jazz Ensemble, 8:00 PM, Meany Theater
January 31-February 5, UW Opera: The Juniper Tree, 8:00 PM Tuesday-Saturday, 2:00 PM Sunday, Studio Theater
February 4, Jazz Festival, with special guest Kenny G, saxophone, 8:00 PM, Meany Theater
February 5, Margriet Tindemans, viola da gamba, and Carole Terry, harpsichord, 8:00 PM, Brechemin Auditorium
February 7, University Wind Ensemble and Symphonic Band, 8:00 PM, Meany Theater
February 21, University Masters Series: Eric Shumsky, viola, 8:00 PM, Meany Theater
February 22, University Chorale Invitational, 7:30 PM, Meany Theater
February 16-19, Sing for Your Supper, 8:00 PM Thursday-Saturday, 3:00 PM Sunday, Brechemin Auditorium
February 28, Madrigal Singers and Collegium Musicum, 8:00 PM, Meany Theater
March 2, University Jazz Combos, 8:00 PM, Brechemin Auditorium
March 6, The Contemporary Group, 8:00 PM, Meany Theater
March 7, University Percussion Ensemble, 8:00 PM, Studio Theater
March 8, University Wind Ensemble & Symphonic Band, 8:00 PM, Meany Theater