

RenChorNY presents

Heinrich Isaac: Music for Church and State

DEC. 2, 2023

4:00 PM

St. John's in the Village
224 Waverly Place
New York, NY

DEC. 9, 2023

4:00 PM

St. Frances Cabrini Shrine
701 Fort Washington Ave
New York, NY



DEC. 16, 2023

4:00 PM

The Lounge at
Hudson View Gardens
128 Pinehurst Ave
New York, NY

RENCHORNY

RICHARD PORTERFIELD, DIRECTOR

Founded as the Renaissance Chorus of New York in 1954

Returning to the composer we recorded in 1957

RENCHORNY PRESENTS

HEINRICH ISAAC:
MUSIC FOR CHURCH AND STATE

Motet: *O decus ecclesiae virgo* Heinrich Isaac (c. 1450—1517)

Missa carminum (Mass of Songs), beginning

Kyrie

Gloria in excelsis

Credo

Motet: *Tota pulchra es*

Missa carminum, conclusion

Sanctus & Benedictus

Agnus Dei

Magnificat-Antiphon: *Virgo prudentissima* Gregorian Chant

Motet: *Virgo prudentissima* Isaac

THE RENAISSANCE CHORUS

Richard Porterfield, *Director*

TEXTS AND TRANSLATIONS

O decus ecclesiae virgo,
o gloriosissima mundi, salve,
et cardina gloria magna
chori dive domus magni reverende,
et maxima preses summe, pates
grata innumeranter manu.
Tu spes cara venis,
tu marina, tu regula in te,
virgines que tu
firma columna Dei.

Te laudant omnes
et plaudunt undique turbe,
spargitur et lato nomen in urbe tuum.
Sic habeas quecumque precatus
pura voluntas. Sic vitæ ditans
det tibi secla Deus, ut pia purpurea
tingat tua tempora,
amictus ambiat et sacrum
sicut diadema caput. Amen.

O Virgin, glory of the church,
O most renowned of the world, hail,
and turning point in great glory
of the great choir of the reverend holy house,
and as the greatest high power, you are open
innumerably with gracious hand.
You, dear hope, come,
you of the sea, you rule of life in you,
and, for virgins, you
steadfast pillar of God.

All praise you
and applaud you everywhere, multitudes,
and your name is spread far in the city.
Thus may you have whatever you prayed for
in your pure will. Thus enriching life,
may God grant you the world, that holy purple
may color your brow,
and a cloak may encircle your holy
head like a diadem. Amen.

Tr. John Hetland

Kyrie eleison. Christe eleison. Kyrie eleison.

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Gloria in excelsis Deo. Et in terra pax hominibus
bonae voluntatis.

Laudamus te. Benedicimus te. Adoramus te.
Glorificamus te. Gratias agimus tibi propter magnam
gloriam tuam. Domine Deus, Rex caelestis, Deus
Pater omnipotens. Domine Fili unigenite, Iesu
Christe. Domine Deus, Agnus Dei, Filius Patris.

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth
peace to people of good will.
We praise you, we bless you, we worship you,
we glorify you, we give thanks to you for your
great glory. O Lord God, heavenly King, God
the Father Almighty. O Lord, the only-begotten
Son, Jesus Christ; O Lord God, Lamb of God,
Son of the Father.

Qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis. Qui tollis
peccata mundi, suscipe deprecationem nostram.
Qui sedes ad dexteram Patris, miserere nobis.

Quoniam tu solus Sanctus. Tu solus Dominus.
Tu solus Altissimus, Iesu Christe.
Cum Sancto Spiritu, in gloria Dei Patris. Amen.

Who take away the sins of the world, have
mercy upon us. Who take away the sins of the
world, receive our prayer. Who sit at the right
hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us.
For you only are holy; you only are the Lord;
you only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost, are
most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen

Credo in unum Deum, patrem omnipotentem,
factorem caeli et terrae, visibilium omnium
et invisibilium. Et in unum Dominum Jesum
Christum, Filium Dei unigenitum, et ex Patre
natum ante omnia saecula. Deum de Deo, lumen
de lumine, Deum verum de Deo vero. Genitum,
non factum, consubstantialem Patri: per quem
omnia facta sunt. Qui propter nos homines et
propter nostram salutem descendit de caelis.

Et incarnatus est de Spiritu Sancto ex Maria
Virgine: et homo factus est.

Crucifixus etiam pro nobis sub Pontio Pilato:
passus, et sepultus est. Et resurrexit tertia die,
secundum scripturas. Et ascendit in caelum:
sedet ad dexteram Patris. Et iterum venturus est
cum gloria iudicare vivos et mortuos: cuius regni
non erit finis.

Et in Spiritum sanctum Dominum, et
vivificantem: qui ex Patre, Filioque procedit.
Qui cum Patre, et Filio simul adoratur, et
conglorificatur: qui locutus est per Prophetas.
Et unam, sanctam, catholicam et apostolicam
Ecclesiam. Confiteor unum baptisma
in remissionem peccatorum. Et expecto
resurrectionem mortuorum et vitam venturi
saeculi. Amen.

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, Maker
of heaven and earth, and of all things visible
and invisible. And in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father
before all worlds. God of God, light of light, true
God of true God. Begotten, not made, being
of one substance with the Father: by whom all
things were made. Who for us men and for our
salvation came down from heaven.

And was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the
Virgin Mary: and was made man.

And was crucified also for us under Pontius
Pilate: He suffered [death], and was buried. And
the third day He rose again in accordance with
the scriptures. And ascended into heaven, and
sits at the right hand of the Father. And shall
come again with glory to judge the living and the
dead: whose kingdom shall have no end.
And in the Holy Ghost, the Lord and giver of life:
who proceeds from the Father and Son. Who
with the Father and Son together is worshipped
and glorified: who has spoken through the
Prophets. And in one holy catholic and apostolic
church. I acknowledge one baptism for the
remission of sins. And I look for the resurrection
of the dead, and the life of the world to come.

Amen.

Tota pulchra es, amica mea, et macula non est in te; favus distillans labia tua; mel et lac sub lingua tua; odor unguentorum tuorum super omnia aromata: jam enim hiems transiit, imber abiit et recessit. Flores apparuerunt; vineae florentes odorem dederunt, et vox turturis audita est in terra nostra.

Surge, propera, amica mea: veni de Libano, veni, coronaberis. (Song of Solomon 4:7,11; 2:11–13; 4:8.)

Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus, Dominus Deus Sabaoth. Pleni sunt coeli et terra gloria tua. Osanna in excelsis.

Benedictus qui venit in nomine Domini. Osanna in excelsis.

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis. Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis. Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, dona nobis pacem.

Magnificat-Antiphon for the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, employed in the following motet as *Cantus firmus*:

Virgo prudentissima, quo progredieris, quasi aurora valde rutilans? Filia Sion, tota formosa et suavis es: pulchra ut luna, electa ut sol.

Virgin most wise, where are you going, shining out as brightly as the dawn? Daughter of Sion, you are most comely and merciful, beautiful as the moon, excellent as the sun.

You are altogether beautiful, my love; there is no flaw in you. Your lips are nectar distilled; honey and milk are under your tongue; the scent of your perfumes is beyond all spices. For now the winter is past, the rain is over and gone. The flowers have appeared; the flowering vines have given forth their fragrance, and the voice of the turtle-dove is heard in our land.

Arise, my love, my fair one; come from Lebanon, come, you will be crowned.

Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed the One who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, have mercy on us. Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, have mercy on us. Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, grant us peace.

Virgo prudentissima quae pia gaudia mundo
attulit, ut sphaeras omnes transcendit et astra
sub nitidis pedibus radiis, et luce chorusca
liquit et ordinibus iam circumsepta novenis
ter tribus atque ierarchiis excepta.

Supremi ante Dei faciem steterat, patrona reorum.

Dicite qui colitis splendentia culmina Olympi:
Spirituum proceres, Anchangeli et Angeli et alme
Virtutesque Throni vos Principum, et agmina
sancta, vosque Potestates, et tu domination Caeli
flammanes Cherubin, verbo Seraphinque creati,
an vos laetitiae tantus perfuderit unquam sensus,
ut aeterni Matrem vidisse tonantis consessum.

Caelo, terraque, marique potentem Reginam, cuius
nomen modo spiritus omnis et genus humanum
merito veneratur adorat.

Vos, Michael, Gabriel, Raphael testamur ad aures
illius, ut castas fundetis vota precesque
pro sacro Imperio, pro Caesare Maximiliano.

Det Virgo omnipotens hostes superare malignos:
restituat populis pacem terrisque salutem.
Hoc tibi devota carmen Georgius arte
ordinat Augusti Cantor Rectorque Capellae.

Austriacae praesul regionis, sedulous omni,
se in tua commendat studio pia gaudia mater.

Praecipuum tamen est Illi quo assumpta fuisti,
quo tu pulchra ut luna micas electa es, et ut sol.

When the most wise Virgin, who brought holy
joy to the world, rose above all the spheres and
left the stars beneath her shining feet in gleaming,
radiant light, she was surrounded by the ninefold
Ranks and received by the nine Hierarchies.

She, the friend of suppliants, stood before
the face of the supreme God.

You who inhabit eternally the dazzling lights of
Heaven—Archangels, leaders of the spirits, and
Angels, and sustaining virtues, and you thrones
of princes, and you holy armies and you powers,
and you dominions of Heaven, and you fiery
Cherubim, and you Seraphim, created from the
Word – say whether such a feeling of joy has ever
overwhelmed you as when you saw the assembly
of the Mother of the everlasting Almighty.

She is the queen, powerful in Heaven, on land and
at sea; every Spirit and every human being rightly
praises and adores her divine majesty.

You, Michael, Gabriel and Raphael, we beg you
to pour out to her chaste ears our prayers
and entreaties for the sacred Empire and for
Maximilian the Emperor.

May the all-powerful Virgin grant that he may
conquer his wicked enemies and restore peace to
the nations and safety to the lands.

With faithful skill Georgius, the emperor's
Precentor and Kapellmeister, rehearses this
anthem for you.

The Governor of the Province of Austria, diligent
in all things, earnestly commends himself to your
holy pleasure, mother.

The highest place, however, belongs to Him
by whom you were taken up, so that you shine
beautiful as the moon, excellent as the sun.

A NOTE ON THE PROGRAM

Heinrich Isaac was one of several composers from the Netherlands who in the decades around the turn of the Sixteenth Century gained international renown through artistic excellence, the established systems of patronage, and the new technology of music printing. Like many of his compatriots he spent significant portions of his career in Italy, but his long and fruitful employment with central-European churches and courts, particularly those of the Habsburg dynasty and its scion the Emperor Maximilian I (1459—1519) secured Isaac's influence especially on musical culture in German-speaking lands, not only in the Renaissance but also in the Baroque and modern eras.

Isaac and his Netherlandish colleagues excelled particularly in the aspect of composition known as counterpoint, the coordination of melodic lines sounding together or overlapping in time. The chorus will help me highlight some of these techniques in my spoken introductions to individual works on the program.

—Richard Porterfield

ABOUT RENCHORNYC

The Renaissance Chorus of New York (RenChorNY) is dedicated to historical repertoires, and to the practice of the skills necessary for their preservation and joyful presentation.

Educated at Columbia University, founder-director Harold Brown learned about this ancient choral tradition under Nadia Boulanger in 1930. In the early 1950s, he recruited his theory and performance students at the High School of Music and Art to study and perform. In 1959, the chorus began to make recordings, mainly, of the masterworks of Flemish polyphonic literature, often newly rediscovered and edited. The Music page at www.Renaissancechorus.org preserves some of those LPs.

This 2023 season, we return to a 'first love,' that is, the first composer whose music we recorded, Heinrich Isaac.

Please consider supporting us in bringing this music the broader community of choral musicians, singers and audiences, contributing through the PAYPAL link at the above website, or at this GoFundMe link: <https://gofund.me/6348f941>

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Officers of RenChorNY

Sigmund Rosen, president

John Hetland, vice-president/music editor

Dorrie Rosen, treasurer

Ruth Horowitz, secretary

Darrell Lauer, Board member-at-large

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Thank you to all our performers.

Sincere thanks to Dr. Richard Porterfield, our conductor, for his directing and for creating the program notes, Stephen Bonime for contracting the musicians, John Bradley for recommending singers, Dr. David Schiller for the recorders.

Thanks to John Hetland for hosting our website and for the performing editions, IMSLP for *Missa carminum*, CPDL for score of *Virgo prudentissima*, Peter Randall for his youtube *Virgo prudentissima* score-video, Aileen Hengeveld for poster and program designs and layout, Erik-Peter Mortensen for video production.

We thank our hosts: Fr. Graeme Napier, Rector, and Hunter Jordan, Administrator of St. John's in the Village; Julia Attaway, Administrator and Sisters of St. Francis X. Cabrini Shrine; Jose Pagan, Evelyne Luest and members of the Performance Arts Group of Hudson View Gardens.

And our media and service collaborators: The Patch; Early Music America; Naomi Morse-Gotham Early Music Scene; Steve Friedman-Vocal Area Network; John Maclay-New York Choral Consortium; Eventbrite Ticketing; Gofundme support; Alec Spenser—admissions and accounting.

Thanks to the audience—all who come and /or donate!

THE CHORUS

Sopranos

Alana Murphy, Audrey Fernandez-Fraser, Lee-Ann Beauchamp, Valerie Ceriano, Ella Oblas

Sopranos/Altos

Anna Willson, Elizabeth Thorne, Dorrie Rosen

Altos/Tenors

Emma, Mark Fiedler, Ezra Halleck

Tenors

Stephen Bonime, Noah Bullock, Alan Richtmyer, Ross French

Basses

Michael Benoit, Mick Bowen, Marty Morell, Erik-Peter Mortensen, Sig Rosen

Bass Recorder

David Schiller

RENAISSANCE CHORUS ASSOCIATION

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