



University of California, Davis  
The Department of Music  
presents

# UCD Early Music Ensemble

David Nutter, director

Heinrich Isaac

(ca. 1450-1517)

Missa Een  
vrolic wesen

Motets, chansons,  
carnival songs, and  
instrumental works

Saturday, 23 November 1991  
8:00 p.m. St. Martin's Episcopal Church  
640 Hawthorn Lane, Davis  
Admission Free



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The Department of Music presents

**THE EARLY MUSIC ENSEMBLE**

David Nutter, *director*

**Heinrich Isaac**

(1450-1517)

***SACRED & PROFANE***

**PROGRAM**

Donna di dentro/Fortuna d'un gran tempo

Carmen in Fa  
In meinem Sinn

Alla Battaglia

MISSA EEN VROLIC WESEN

*Kyrie*  
*Gloria*  
*Credo*

*intermission*

MISSA EEN VROLIC WESEN

*Sanctus*  
*Agnus Dei*

Innsbruck, ich muss dich lassen (two settings)  
Veni redemptor gentium (Heinrich Finck, 1440-1527)  
Mon père m'a donné mari

Virgo prudentissima

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*The Department of Music thanks the Elizabeth Rudisill Homann fund for its support of this concert*

## THE EARLY MUSIC ENSEMBLE

SOPRANO: Margaret Grayden, Carole Hom, Helen Nutter  
ALTO: Ellen Behrens, Rebecca Littman, Emmett Rahl  
TENOR: Gregg Gmuca, Stephen Messano, Brook Ostrom  
BARITONE: Cliff Eveland, Tim True, Neil Willits  
BASS: Kari Kaarna, Josh Watanabe

WIND ENSEMBLE: Gerry Greer, Billie Hamilton, Phyllis Jestice, Fred Weyman  
LUTE: Richard Darcie

### Program note

Heinrich Isaac was one of the leading Flemish composers of his generation (contemporary variants of his name include Henricus Yzac; Yzak; and Isaak). Recruited as a singer by the Medici, Isaac arrived in Florence in 1485. A member the "Singers of San Giovanni," he sang in the cathedral (Santa Maria del Fiore), in the baptistry (San Giovanni), and in the Servite church of Santissima Annuziata. Isaac's close personal ties with the Medici seem evident. Lorenzo de' Medici, called "the Magnificent" (1449-1492) arranged for Isaac's marriage to a Florentine woman, and Isaac may have been entrusted with the musical training of Lorenzo's children. Years later, his faithful service was rewarded by one of Lorenzo's children, Pope Leo X (Giovanni de' Medici, 1475-1521), who provided Isaac with an annuity three years before the composer's death in 1517. Lorenzo died on 8 April, 1492; two years later the Medici were driven from Florence, the Florentine republic reinstated, and the chapel disbanded. Subsequently, in 1497, Isaac was engaged as court composer to Emperor Maximilian I whose peripatetic court and Hofkapelle resided variously at Innsbruck and Vienna. Up to then Germany could scarcely be said to have taken a leading role in the main tradition of European music, a situation radically transformed by the presence of Isaac. Isaac's position seems not to have entailed full time residence, and he often returned to Florence for extended periods.

Isaac's *Missa 'Een vrolic wesen'* takes its title and its thematic material from a three-voice chanson by the Dutch composer Jacques Barbireau (ca. 1420-1491); Barbireau's song was one of the most popular of the time, appearing in dozens of arrangements in the Low Countries, France, England, Spain, Germany and Italy. In Isaac's mass both the soprano and tenor voices of Barbireau's chanson serve as thematic material; the melodies are elaborated in a variety of ways (paraphrase, augmentation, metrical shifts) and incorporated into various contexts and textures. The sheer wealth of inventiveness on the broadest possible scale is striking.

Isaac's secular output comprises instrumental works, French chansons, German Lieder, and Florentine carnival songs. *Alla Battaglia* appears to honor Niccolò Orsini, Count of Pitigliano, invested as Captain-General of the Florentine army in 1485. The text describes preparations for an attack on the castle of Sarzanello, a military stronghold contested by the Genoese and Florentines; Sarzanello fell to the Florentines in 1487. The call-to-arms names professional soldiers (*condottieri*). *Donna di dentro* is a quodlibet combining two popular melodies of the time, *Dammene un pocho di quella mazzcrocha*, and *Fortuna d'un gran tempo*. Of the two settings of *Innsbruck*, *ich muss dich lassen*, the first is the Christe II from Isaac's *Missa Carminum* (with the melody in close imitation between alto and tenor); the well-known second setting presents the melody in the soprano.

*Virgo prudentissima* was probably composed about 1507, when Maximilian I was laying plans for his coronation as Holy Roman Emperor. Scored for six voices, the work is conceived on a grand, Imperial, scale. The cantus firmus melody *Virgo prudentissima*, sung by the Tenor in long values, is the antiphon to the Magnificat at First Vespers on the Feast of the Assumption. The motet's text, by the humanist Vadian, is founded on the hope that the Virgin will look mercifully on Maximilian, having received the intercessions of the three Archangels. The "Georgius" mentioned in the second section was Georg Slatkonia, Maximilian's *Kapellmeister* and later bishop of Vienna. The work ends with a pun on the solmisation syllables taken from the final words of the text "ut sol" (as the sun), equivalent to the notes C and G respectively.

## TEXTS AND TRANSLATIONS

### DONNA, DI DENTRO/FORTUNA

Donna, di dentro dalla tua casa  
Son rose, gigli e fiori;  
Tutto homo che l'annasa  
Ne sente gusto al core.  
Fortuna d'un gran tempo  
Dammi una rosa,  
Totela, o perla pretiosa.  
Dammene un poco di quella mazzacrocha.

Dammene un pocho di quella mazzacrocha  
E non me ne dar troppa;  
Fortuna d'un gran tempo mi se' stata  
O gloriosa donna, mia bella.

Lady, within your house  
are roses, lilies, and flowers;  
Every man who smells them  
Takes delight in them.  
Fortune, a long while since,  
gave me a rose,  
I hand it to you, o precious pearl.  
Give me a little of that almond cake.

Give me a little of that almond cake  
but don't give me too much;  
Fortune, a long while since, has been with me  
O glorious lady, my beautiful one.

### ALLA BATTAGLIA

Alla battaglia, presto, alla battaglia,  
Armisi ognun di sua corrazza e maglia.  
Per parte dell'excelso capitano  
Ognun sia presto armato e sia in camino.  
Su valenti Signor di mano in mano  
Signor Giulio e Organtino  
O signor Paulo Orsino.

Schinieri, falda e corrazza, fiancaletto,  
Su lancia, stocco e mazza.  
Affibbia questo bracialletto  
Al caval, tosto, al caval!  
Su messer Hercole, Criaco e Cerbone,  
Conte Rinuccio, signor Honorato,  
Ser di Piombino, Annibale e Guidone,  
Giovan Savel, Malespina e Currado.

Ognun sia presto armato e a caval montato.  
Su spade, sproni, alabarde.  
Al leardo, seguitiam lo stendardo,  
Bolognesi e Galleschi,  
Alor che son prigionier e rotti.  
Su huom valenti e franchi stradiotti,  
Su buon soldati e dotti,  
Leviam di qui questa brutta canaglia.

To the battle, quickly to the battle,  
Everyone arm himself with cuirass and chain mail.  
By order of the excellent captain  
everyone must be quickly armed and go forth.  
Forward, valiant men, one by one,  
Signor Giulio, Organtino,  
O signor Paulo Orsino.

Armor for legs, kidneys, breast, and flanks,  
forward lances, rapiers, and maces.  
Tighten this cinture  
to horse, quickly, to horse!  
Forward sirs Hercole, Criaco and Cerbone,  
Count Rinuccio, signor Honorato,  
Sir from Piombino, Annibale and Guidone,  
Giovan Savel, Malespina and Currado.

Everyone quickly take arms and mount your horses.  
Forward swords, spurs, halberds.  
To the dapple grey horse, let's follow the standard,  
Bolognese and French,  
until they are prisoners and broken.  
Forward valiant and bold men,  
forward good and well-trained soldiers,  
Let us clear away that ugly mob.

-Gentile Aretino

## VIRGO PRUDENTISSIMA

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  
Olimpi: Spirituum proceres, Archangeli  
et Angeli et alme Virtutesque Throni  
vos Principum, et agmina sancta, vosque  
Potestates, et tu Dominatio caeli  
flammatantes Cherubin, verbo Seraphinque  
creati, an vos laetitiae tantus perfuderit  
unquam sensus, ut aeterni Matrem vidisse  
tonantis concessum.

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

Vos, Michael, Gabriel, Raphael, testamus  
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  
Cappellae. Austriae praesul regionis,  
sedulus omni, se in tua commendat studio  
pia gaudia mater. Praecipuum tamen est Illi  
quo assumpta fuisti, quo tu pulchra et  
luna micas electa es, et ut sol.

- Vadian

### *Tenor Cantus firmus*

Virgo prudentissima, quo progrederis,  
quasi aurora valde rutilans? Filia Sion.

Tota formosa et suavis es:  
pulchra ut luna, electa ut sol.

When the most wise Virgin, who brought holy joy  
to the world, passed beyond all spheres and  
left the stars beneath her glistening feet in  
gleaming radiant light, she was surrounded by the  
ninefold Ranks and received by the nine Hierarchies.  
The protector of sinners, she stood before  
the face of Almighty God.

You who inhabit the dazzling heights of  
Heaven, Leaders of the Spiritual Host, Angels  
and Archangels, bountiful Virtues, and you  
Thrones of Principalities, holy armies,  
Powers, Dominions of Heaven, fiery  
Cherubin, and 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; whose majesty every spirit  
and every human being rightly praises and adores.

You we invoke, Michael, Gabriel and Raphael,  
to pour upon her chaste ears our prayers  
and entreaties for the sacred empire  
and for Maximilian the Emperor.

May the all-powerful Virgin grant that he conquer his  
wicked enemies, and restore peace to the nations and  
safety to the land. With faithful skill Georgius, the  
Emperor's Precentor and Kapellmeister, rehearses this  
anthem for you. Austria's Protector, diligent in all  
things, earnestly commends himself, Mother, to your  
tender joys. The highest place, however, belongs to Him  
by whom you were taken up, through whom you shine,  
beautiful as the moon, and are as excellent as the sun.

Virgin most wise, where are you going,  
glowing brightly like the dawn? Daughter of Sion!

Wholly fair and sweet you are,  
beautiful as the moon, excellent as the sun.

# The Ordinary of the Mass

## KYRIE

Kyrie eleison  
Christe eleison  
Kyrie eleison

Lord, have mercy upon us.  
Christ, have mercy upon us.  
Lord, have mercy upon us.

## GLORIA

Gloria in excelsis Deo.  
Et in terra pax hominibus bonae voluntatis.  
Laudamus te. Benedicimus te.  
Adoramus te. Glorificamus te.  
Gratias agimus tibi propter magnum gloriam tuam.  
Domine Deus, Rex coelestis,  
Deus pater omnipotens.  
Domine Fili unigenite, Jesu Christe.  
Domine Deus, Agnus Dei, Filius Patris.  
Qui tollis peccata mundi,  
suscipe deprecationem nostram.  
Qui sedes ad dexteram Patris,  
miserere nobis. Quoniam tu solus sanctus.  
Tu solus Dominus. Tu solus Altissimus, Jesu Christe.  
Cum Sancto Spiritu,  
in gloria Dei Patris. Amen.

Glory be to God in the highest.  
And on earth peace to men of good will.  
We praise Thee. We bless Thee.  
We adore Thee. We glorify Thee.  
We give Thee thanks for Thy great glory.  
O Lord God, heavenly King,  
God the Father almighty.  
O Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son.  
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father.  
Who taketh away the sins of the world,  
receive our prayer.  
Who sitteth at the right hand of the Father,  
have mercy upon us. Thou alone art Lord.  
Thou alone, O Jesus Christ, art most high.  
Together with the Holy Ghost,  
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

## CREDO

Credo in unum Deum,  
Patrem omnipotentem, factorem coeli et terrae,  
visibilium omnium, et invisibilium.  
Et in unum Dominum Iesum Christum,  
Filium Dei unigenitum.  
Et ex Patre natum ante omnia saecula.  
Deum de Deo, lumen de lumine, Deum verum de Deo vero.  
Gentium, non factum, consubstantiale Patri:  
per quem omnia facta sunt.  
Qui propter nos homines, et propter nostram  
salutem descendit de coelis.  
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 coelum:  
sedet ad dexteram Patris.  
Et iterum venturus est cum gloria,  
judicare vivos et mortuos:  
cujus 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 baptismum 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,  
the only-begotten Son of God.  
Born of the Father before all ages.  
God of God, light of light, true God of True God.  
Begotten, not made; of one substance with the Father.  
by whom all things are made.  
Who for us men, and for our salvation,  
came down from heaven.  
And was made flesh by the Holy Ghost  
of the Virgin Mary: and was made man.  
He was crucified for us,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate, and was buried.  
And on the third day He rose again,  
according to the Scriptures.  
And ascended into heaven:  
He sitteth at the right hand of the Father.  
And He shall come again with glory  
to judge the living and the dead;  
and of His Kingdom there shall be no end.  
And in the Holy Ghost, the Lord and Giver of life,  
who proceedeth from the Father and the Son.  
Who together with the Father and the Son  
is adored and glorified:  
who spoke by the prophets.  
And in one holy, catholic and apostolic church.  
I confess one baptism for the remission of sins.  
And I expect the resurrection of the dead.  
And the life of the world to come. Amen.

## SANCTUS

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.

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.  
Heaven and earth are filled with Thy glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.

## AGNUS DEI

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.

Lamb of God, who taketh away the sins of the world,  
have mercy upon us.  
Lamb of God, who taketh away the sins of the world,  
have mercy upon us.  
Lamb of God, who taketh away the sins of the world,  
grant us peace.