



## MUSIC FOR THREE SOVEREIGNS

MAXIMILIAN I, MARGUERITE OF AUSTRIA, AND DIDO, QUEEN OF CARTHAGE

FRIDAY, MARCH 30, 2012 • 8 PM

First Church in Cambridge, Congregational

# MUSIC FOR THREE SOVEREIGNS

MAXIMILIAN I, MARGUERITE OF AUSTRIA, AND DIDO, QUEEN OF CARTHAGE

FRIDAY, MARCH 30, 2012 • 8 PM

First Church in Cambridge, Congregational

## PROGRAM

### I. MUSIC FOR THE HOLY ROMAN EMPEROR MAXIMILIAN I (1459–1519) FROM THE *LIBER SELECTARUM CANTIONUM* (1520)

Josquin des Prez (c. 1455–1521)  
*Inviolata, integra et casta es, Maria*

Heinrich Isaac (c. 1450–1517)  
*O Maria, mater Christi*

### II. MUSIC FROM THE SONGBOOKS OF MARGUERITE OF AUSTRIA (1480–1530)

Josquin  
*Fama, malum qua non aliud velocius ullum*  
MN OM MS DB

Johannes Ghiselin (doc. 1491–1507)  
*Dulces exuvie*  
JA OM AS DM

Alexander Agricola (c. 1445/6–1506)  
*Dulces exuvie*  
SW JM MS PG

Josquin  
*Que vous, madame / In pace (instrumental)*  
MC SM MR

### III. FROM THE *LIBER SELECTARUM CANTIONUM*

Ludwig Senfl (c. 1486–1542/3)  
*Beati omnes*

INTERMISSION

IV. FROM THE *LIBER SELECTARUM CANTIONUM*

Jacob Obrecht (1457/8–1505)

*Salve crux*

MN JM AS DM PG

V. FROM THE SONGBOOKS OF MARGUERITE OF AUSTRIA

Loyset Compère (c. 1455–1518)

*O devotz cueurs / O vos omnes (instrumental)*

MC SM MR

Jean Mouton (before 1459–1522)

*Dulces exuvie*

PD JM AS PG

Josquin

*Dulces exuvie*

SW OM MS DM

VI. FROM THE *LIBER SELECTARUM CANTIONUM*

Isaac

*Virgo prudentissima*

BLUE HERON

Jennifer Ashe

Pamela Dellal

Martin Near

Shari Wilson

Owen McIntosh

Jason McStoots

Aaron Sheehan

Mark Sprinkle

David McFerrin

Dashon Burton

Paul Guttry

Michael Collver, *cornetto*

Mack Ramsey, *trombone*

Scott Metcalfe, *director, vielle*

Pre-concert talk by Keth Polk  
(Professor Emeritus, University of New  
Hampshire) sponsored in part by  
The Cambridge Society for Early Music.



BLUE  
HERON

Blue Heron · 45 Ash Street, Auburndale MA 02466

(617) 960-7956 · [info@blueheronchoir.org](mailto:info@blueheronchoir.org) · [www.blueheronchoir.org](http://www.blueheronchoir.org)

Blue Heron Renaissance Choir, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt entity.

This organization is funded in part by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.



[massculturalcouncil.org](http://massculturalcouncil.org)

# MUSIC FOR THREE SOVEREIGNS

MAXIMILIAN I, MARGUERITE OF AUSTRIA, AND  
DIDO, QUEEN OF CARTHAGE

## THREE SOVEREIGNS, FOUR SOURCES

This program celebrates the musical legacy of two outstanding patrons from a dynasty of patrons, the Habsburg Emperor Maximilian I (1459–1519) and his daughter, Marguerite of Austria (1480–1530), as it is transmitted by four documents of the early sixteenth century. The first is the *Liber selectarum cantionum*, a print of 1520 that preserves the most highly esteemed sacred repertory of Maximilian's imperial chapel. The second and third are manuscripts that were prepared in the scriptorium of Petrus Alamire at the court of Marguerite in the Netherlands. One of these, a songbook containing mostly secular music, was copied for Marguerite between c. 1508 and 1516 (Brussels, Bibliothèque royale, MS 228); among the contents are two settings of Dido's last words, beginning "Dulces exuvie," from the fourth book of the *Aeneid* by Virgil. The other contains mostly motets, but it also contains a sequence of five settings of *Dulces exuvie*; this manuscript was copied sometime between 1513 and 1525 and sent to Henry VIII of England and his wife of the moment, Catherine of Aragon (London, British Library, MS Royal 8 G. vii). The fourth source is a manuscript copied in Savoy that accompanied Marguerite to the Netherlands; like her other songbook, it now resides in Brussels (Brussels, Bibliothèque royale, MS 11239).

Through his marriage to Mary, the only child of Charles the Bold, duke of Burgundy, Maximilian captured the brilliant political and cultural inheritance of the Burgundian court for the central European Habsburgs. (His grandson, the future Charles V, would extend the family's reach all the way to the Iberian peninsula, joining his Austrian grandfather's dominions to those of his maternal grandparents, Ferdinand and Isabella of Aragon and Castile.) The Burgundian heritage, in turn, transformed Maximilian and the Habsburgs. While MSS 228 and 11239 paint

an intimate portrait of the musical tastes of a child of Burgundy on her native ground, the *Liber selectarum cantionum* bears witness to the hegemony of Franco-Flemish music and musicians across the continent in the first decades of the 1500s, and the presentation manuscript sent to Henry VIII, MS Royal 8 G. vii, shows the Habsburg-Burgundians using music composed and copied under their auspices as a diplomatic tool.

## HABSBURG AND BURGUNDIANS

The title King of the Romans, despite its name, was conferred by election upon the sovereign among German nobles; if the Holy Roman Emperor was alive when the king was elected, that king would become emperor upon the emperor's death, the coronation traditionally being confirmed by papal anointment. The Habsburg family ascended to the throne of King of the Romans in 1273 and occupied it, with few interruptions, for centuries, but in the mid-fifteenth century the Habsburg emperor Friedrich III was fighting the efforts of the Burgundian dukes to extend their sovereignty into central Europe by having themselves crowned King. Matters came to a head at Neuss in 1475, when Friedrich's troops clashed with the Burgundian army led by duke Charles the Bold. The battle ended without a victory for either side, but the ensuing negotiations, rather than making Charles King of the Romans as he had hoped, instead saw his only child Mary betrothed to Friedrich's 16-year-old son, Maximilian. Scarcely two years later, in January of 1477, Charles was killed on the battlefield at Nancy, fighting the combined forces of the Swiss and Rene II, duke of Lorraine, who had the financial backing of Louis XI of France—and undoubtedly the support of Friedrich as well. The aspirations of the Burgundians perished with Charles. Mary and Maximilian were married at Ghent the following August, and the Burgundian inheritance passed into the Habsburg line.

Arriving at the glittering court of Burgundy at age eighteen, Maximilian embraced wholeheartedly its

life of cultural sophistication. Later, founding his own court chapel, he would look to the Burgundian chapel, whose members included Antoine Busnoys and Pierre de la Rue, for an example. Maximilian's marriage to Mary was exceptionally happy, and for the next few years he lived content in Bruges, despite the political turmoil seething around him after the collapse of Burgundian power and the arrival of the foreign Habsburgs. A son, Philip the Fair, was born in 1478, and Marguerite in 1480. These rosy days were fated to end all too soon, however, for Mary died in 1482 after a hunting accident, and Maximilian embarked on a life of itinerancy, wandering back and forth across his loosely-amalgamated lands and across the Alps into Italy.

Marguerite, from infancy a pawn in the dynastic games of the European nobility, was betrothed at age two to the dauphin of France and sent off to be raised at the French court. The engagement was broken off in 1491 after Maximilian violated the terms of the original agreement. In 1497 Marguerite was married to Juan, son of Ferdinand and Isabella (her brother, Philip the Fair, had married their daughter, Juana, the year before), but Juan died suddenly within mere months of the wedding. In 1501 she married Philibert II, duke of Savoy; he too died unexpectedly young, in 1504. Marguerite ruled as duchess of Savoy for a few more years, but after her brother Philip died in Spain in 1506, leaving the Burgundian polity in disarray once again, the Estates of the Netherlands offered their regency to Maximilian, who in turn assigned it to Marguerite. She returned to the Low Countries and established her court in Malines (Mechelen), where she ruled as regent until her nephew Charles V came of age in 1515. In 1518 Charles appointed her governor of the Netherlands, where she remained until her death in 1530, a highly cultured, politically savvy, and famously melancholy lady who took as her motto "Fortune infortune fort une": Fortune makes a woman very unhappy.

#### LIBER SELECTARUM CANTIONUM

The Swiss composer Ludwig Senfl entered the Vienna *Hofcapelle* as a choirboy in 1496, may have studied with Isaac, and succeeded him as court composer in 1517. Three years after Isaac's death and one year after Maximilian's, Senfl oversaw the publication of the *Liber selectarum cantionum* (Book of Select Songs). A large and magnificent choirbook, the *Liber* contains "musical compositions...of that serious kind and in a style worthy in particular of the ears of ruling men, compositions which are called motets by the more customary name, edited by the most laborious and very expensive work by the famous cultivator of that very art itself, Ludwig Senfl, that well-known Swiss who made famous the music of the chapel of Emperor Maximilian after the departure of his illustrious teacher, Isaac, the German Orpheus" (from the preface, translated by Kenneth Roberts). There are twenty-four motets—eight each for four, five, and six voices—by Josquin, Isaac, Senfl, La Rue, Obrecht, Mouton, and one or more anonymous composers. Dedicated to the Prince-Archbishop of Salzburg, the collection is also clearly a tribute to Maximilian, who is named in several works within, and to the imperial chapel. Our program presents a small selection of these select songs: a motet by the most celebrated musician of the time, Josquin des Prez, two by Isaac, and one by Obrecht, and a psalm-setting by the volume's editor, Senfl.

We open with Josquin's *Inviolata, integra et casta es, Maria*, a work whose serene beauty rests on a structure provided by the plainchant melody in the tenor (the fourth voice to enter, here doubled by trombone), followed in canon a fifth above by the alto (here doubled by cornett). The canonic imitation draws closer in time as the work proceeds, the delay decreasing from three breves in the first part to two in the second and one in the third, lending a wonderful sense of propulsion to the motet. In the beginnings of the first and second parts the freely-composed voices anticipate the chant melody, thus lending camouflage



to the canonic entries. As so often with Josquin, the music conveys at every moment the emotions of the text; Marguerite's court historiographer, the poet Jean Lemaire, wrote fittingly in a poem of 1511 of "de Josquin les verbes coulourez" (Josquin's colored words). Particularly striking here is the ecstatic repetition of music for the three-fold exclamations of the final couplet, above the three-fold repetition of a bit of melody in the plainchant.

Senfl's *Beati omnes* sets the complete text of Psalm 127, quoting the psalm-tone reciting formula in the first several bars of the tenor. The motet reveals Senfl to be a worthy heir to the Franco-Flemish tradition. A small masterpiece of formal control harnessed to expressive purpose, it moves easily between syllabic declamation and flowing melisma, deploys dissonance in a most finely-judged manner (caressing, for example, the words "Uxor tua," your wife), and creates dramatic effects by means of harmonic motion (listen for the amazing series of harmonies related by a third that rises through "Et videas filios filiorum," as if unfolding from generation to generation), all leading to fulfillment at the words "pacem super Israel."

Obrecht's *Salve crux* takes two plainchant cantus firmi referring to the cross and builds upon them an elaborate structure of polyphony. The work is a virtuosic example of the compositional *varietas* praised by contemporary theorists of art and music alike, in imitation of classical rhetorical precepts. Obrecht deploys now two, now three, now four or all five voices in ever-shifting combinations; the metric organization starts in triple, changes to duple for the *secunda pars*, and returns to triple; the rhythms of the melodies, jazzy and jittery at one moment, at the next become a plain sequence of equal note values. The main text of the motet refers to battles waged by the emperor Constantine against his pagan rival Maxentius in the year 312 and the emperor Heraclius against the shah of Iran, Chosroes or Khusraw II, in 628; the latter had overrun

most of the Byzantine empire and even managed to capture the True Cross in Jerusalem.

The two works by Isaac, a composer highly esteemed in his own day but relatively little-heard in our own, evoke different moods. Where the six-voice *Virgo prudentissima* is monumental and unmistakably imperial in effect, the profound and engaging *O Maria, mater Christi*, set in a rich E mode for four low voices, feels intimate and personal despite its considerable length. It is kin to Senfl's *Beati omnes* in employing a wide diversity of textures, harmonies, mensurations, and varieties of melodic motion.

Although he was elected King of the Romans in 1486 and succeeded to the title of Holy Roman Emperor upon his father's death in 1493, Maximilian never managed to get to Rome for a coronation at the hands of the Pope. In 1507 he convened a Reichstag in Constance to plan for the coronation, but Venetian troops prevented him from reaching the Holy City and he was instead crowned in Trent in 1508 by a papal legate. While the Reichstag in Constance proved fruitless as far as a papal coronation was concerned, it was there that Isaac composed *Virgo prudentissima*, a motet whose text and music, as David Rothenburg has written recently, "appropriate the liturgy and theology of the Assumption of the Virgin so that Maximilian's ascent to the Imperial throne and coronation as Emperor might be aligned symbolically with the Virgin Mary's Assumption into heaven and coronation therein as Queen." The scaffolding for the motet is a plainchant cantus firmus, the antiphon to the Magnificat at the Feast of the Assumption. The chant melody is sung in long notes by the tenor, and the virtuosic duets which open the work derive their opening phrases from the chant melody. The florid counterpoint of the duets and trios contrasts dramatically with the majestic and slow-moving harmonies of the sections for full choir undergirded by cantus firmus. These portray the awesome grandeur of the Queen of Heaven, surrounded by the nine orders of angels:

archangels and angels, holy legions, fiery cherubim and seraphim, streaming sparkling light. Maximilian basks in her glory. The text, an elaborate gloss on the antiphon written in classical hexameters, is most likely by Georg Slatkonja, Maximilian's chapel master, who gives himself a special plug in the *secunda pars*.

#### DIDO'S LAMENT

Dido was born Elissa, a princess of Tyre in Phoenicia. Fleeing the treachery of her brother, Pygmalion, who had murdered her husband, Sychaeus, she sailed across the Mediterranean and made land on the shores of northern Africa in what is now Tunisia. Here she struck a deal with the local sovereign that she might have as much land as could be enclosed within the hide of a bull. By cutting the hide into a long and narrow strip she claimed enough territory to found the city of Carthage—Qart Hadasth or “New City”—and became its queen, changing her name to Dido or “wanderer.” While the city was still under construction, Aeneas, a Trojan (or Dardan) prince fleeing the sack of Troy (or Ilium) with his followers, was wrecked on the coast, blown far off course by storms sent against him by the wrathful Juno.

Juno's hatred of the Trojans derived from the incident known as the Judgement of Paris, when Paris, son of King Priam of Troy, judged Venus fairer than Juno or Minerva. As a reward Venus promised him Helen, the most beautiful woman in the world. But Helen was already married to Menelaus, king of Sparta, and her elopement with Paris sparked off the long and bloody Trojan War, which culminated in the destruction of Troy. Juno, intent on finishing the job by drowning Troy's survivors, was opposed by Venus, who, besides favoring Trojans in general on account of Paris's favor towards her, was Aeneas's mother. Venus managed to get the storm-weary Trojans to Carthage, whereupon she sent her other son, Cupid, to sink his fateful arrow in Dido's breast, causing the proud widow to fall desperately in love with Aeneas. Dido and Aeneas soon became lovers. Jupiter, however, intended that

Aeneas continue to Italy to found the Roman empire. Peremptorily recalled to his divine mission by Mercury, Aeneas abandoned Dido, whereupon the queen built a funeral pyre heaped with gifts brought her by the Trojan prince, mounted it, set it alight, and stabbed herself with his sword.

The two manuscripts prepared in the Habsburg-Burgundian scriptorium, MS Royal 8 G.vii and Brussels 228, transmit six settings of Dido's last words in the *Aeneid*, beginning with “Dulces exuviae, dum fata deusque sinebat.” All are anonymous but most can be ascribed from other sources. MS Royal 8 G.vii contains settings by Alexander Agricola, Josquin, Jean Mouton, Johannes Ghiselin, and an unidentified composer, perhaps Pierre de la Rue; Brussels 228 has two, that by Agricola and another by Marbriano de Orto. Each manuscript also includes one setting of an earlier passage beginning with the words “Fama malum”—by Josquin in MS Royal 8 G.vii, by an unidentified composer in Brussels 228. Our program offers a selection from this group of eight pieces. We don't know what inspired the creation of these works on Virgilian texts, but they clearly belong to some sort of set and it may be that all of them were composed at or around the Habsburg-Burgundian court in 1505, for Orto arrived there early that year and the entire court and chapel left for Spain on January 4, 1506. This would date their composition before Marguerite's arrival in the Netherlands from Savoy, in July 1507, but the two songbooks that are the main source of the *Aeneid* settings were copied during her tenure, and we might speculate that Marguerite identified herself with Dido: noble, crafty, strong-willed, battered by fate, destroyed in the end by the machinations of the gods and her own overwhelmingly passionate nature.

Not unusually for chansons from around 1500, many of the Dido songs are characterized by a rather obscure connection between language and melody, although the music is generally very expressive of Dido's nobility and grief. Ghiselin's setting has a great

dignity about it and it also adheres most clearly to the structure of the poetry, coming to rest at the end of each line; Agricola's is filled with restless energy and melisma; Mouton's emerges from a motionless beginning, becomes more and more animated as Dido asks for death to release her and states that her life has run its course, and then subsides once again. All the *Dulces exuvie* settings in the 1505 group seem to comment upon one other, sharing fragments of melody and certain harmonic gestures, but those attributed to Josquin and Mouton are more directly related: their cantus parts are identical throughout, aside from an extra final note in the Josquin. As to who borrowed whose cantus, the sources are silent, but David Fallows, the eminent scholar of fifteenth-century song and author of the recent monograph *Josquin*, believes that Mouton's setting came first.

*Fama malum* describes Rumor, "of all evils the swiftest," carrying abroad the scandal of Dido's dalliance with Aeneas, and Josquin's work is as much a marvel of precise dramatic characterization as Virgil's. It begins with a worrying, obsessive *ostinato* figure on the words "Fama, malum" which returns at twice the speed for the word "velocius" (swifter). The top parts sing a duo on the words "parva metu primo" (small at first through fear), interrupted by a duo in the lower parts at "mox sese attolit in auras" (soon she mounts up to heaven); the next entry of the superius creates a jarring false relation with the tenor (in our reading of the chromatic inflection called for at the tenor's cadence). The effect of the whole work is threatening and unsettling, foreshadowing the tragic events to follow.

Rising at dawn, Dido sees Aeneas's fleet putting out to sea and knows that she has been betrayed. She races to a pyre heaped up with everything Aeneas has left behind and prepares to kill herself with his sword. "Dido, trembling and frenzied with her awful purpose, rolling her bloodshot eyes, her quivering cheeks flecked with burning spots, and pale at the coming of death,

bursts into the inner courts of the house, mounts in madness the high pyre and unsheathes the Dardan sword, a gift besought for no such end!" (translation by H. R. Fairclough). Beholding her lover's garments and the bed they shared, she sinks down in tears to speak her last words, words as proud and dignified as they are grief-stricken: "I have lived, and have fulfilled the course that Fortune gave me, and now my mighty shade shall pass beneath the earth." In the following lines, Dido lists her accomplishments: avenging her husband, punishing her treacherous brother, and founding a city, that powerful symbol and locus of Renaissance civilization.

Urbem praeclaram statui, mea moenia vidi,  
ulta virum poenas inimico a fratre recepi:  
felix, heu nimium felix, si litora tantum  
nunquam Dardaniae tetigissent nostra carinae.

A noble city have I built; I have seen my own walls;  
avenging my husband, I have punished my brother  
and foe:  
happy, ah! too happy, had but the Dardan keels  
never touched our shores!

To the vocal works we add instrumental performances of two more pieces from Marguerite's chansonniers, Compère's *O devotz cueurs* / *O vos omnes* from Brussels 228 and Josquin's *Que vous madame* / *In pace* from Brussels 11239. Both pieces are motet-chansons which combine French poetry with a sacred Latin cantus firmus, a genre well represented in Marguerite's collections, perhaps because it appealed to her serious nature.

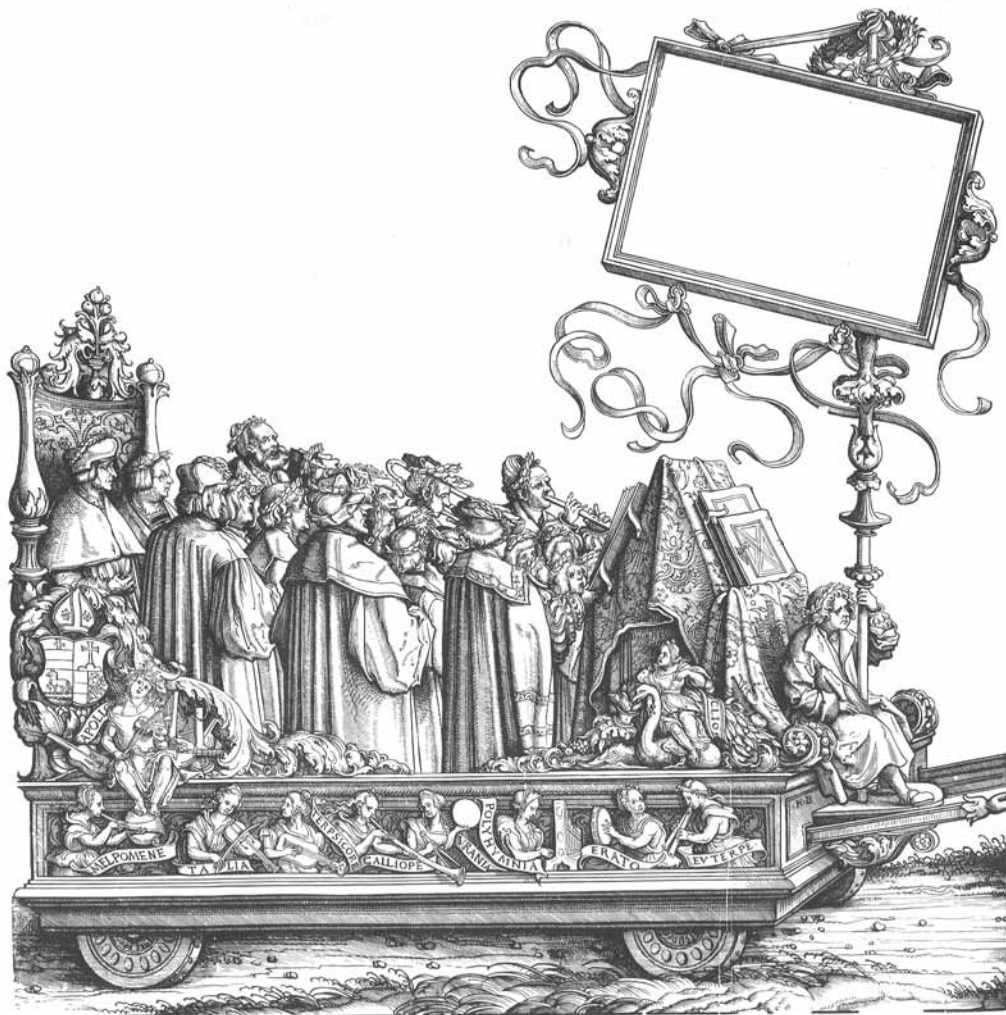
#### PERFORMANCE PRACTICES

Maximilian, although constantly on the move and frequently at war, did not lack a substantial and varied musical establishment. As was the custom of the peripatetic nobles of Europe, he simply brought it along with him. His musical entourage included trumpeters and drummers, fifers and pipers, lutenists and fiddle players, and an organist. On the road his vocal forces



comprised a choir of eight for liturgical services, a chamber ensemble of three or four singers, including women, and a special solo singer. Passing through Italy in 1492, Maximilian engaged the Flemish composer Heinrich Isaac. Isaac became court composer in 1497 and was associated with the imperial court until his death, although he preferred to live primarily in Italy. In 1498 Maximilian refounded the imperial chapel in

Vienna under the direction of Jorg Slakany or Georg Slatkonias, a humanist, poet, composer, and eventually Bishop of Vienna. Slatkonias's choir, along with Maximilian's entire court—knights, officers, soldiers, fencers, jesters, fools, jousters, hunters, and many musicians—is memorialized in an epic sequence of 137 woodcuts depicting an enormous triumphal procession, *The Triumph of Maximilian I*. Maximilian himself



Musica Canterey, from *The Triumph of Maximilian I*.

specified the layout of the *Triumph* and composed the verses which were to be engraved on the plaques carried in the procession.

The illustration of the *Canterey* pictures the imperial choir borne on a low cart which is decorated with the figures of Apollo and the nine Muses. Clustered behind a large lectern and reading from the choirbook set upon it are sixteen singers—nine boys and seven men—as well as a cornettist and a trombonist. Slatkonja is seated on a throne at the rear, his bishop's mitre resting nearby. The verse for the adjacent woodcut of the bison which draw the cart has Slatkonja describing how he, with the emperor's encouragement, trained and improved the choir. The plaque born on the cart itself was to read:

Posaun vnd Zinckhen han wir gestelt  
zu dem Gesang, wie dann gefelt  
der Kaiserlichen Mayestat  
dardurch sich oft erlustigt hat  
aufs frölichst mit rechtem grundt  
wie wir desselben hetten kundt.

*Trombone[s] and cornetts have we placed  
with the singers, as it pleased  
his Imperial Majesty,  
who has often enjoyed this  
with great pleasure, and rightly so,  
as we have had cause to know.*

Propaganda designed to perpetuate the emperor's glorious memory, the *Triumph* without a doubt presents an idealized vision of his court. Nevertheless, the illustration of the *Canterey* points to several aspects of choral performance practice around 1500 which are confirmed by documentary evidence. First is the size of the choir, in the *Triumph* sixteen singers, somewhat exaggerating the number Maximilian normally employed, which in the years from the late 1480s onwards seem to have fluctuated between eight and twelve or more, perhaps reflecting the state of the emperor's purse. (Today our choir for the sacred works includes from five to eleven singers, depending

on the number of parts in a piece and whether we sing one or two to a part; the secular music is sung one to a part, as was the norm.) Second is the use of boys together with men. (Unconstrained by ecclesiastical strictures on the sex of those singing in church, we are happy to have women on the top parts, joined by one adult male falsettist, for whom a boy was an alternative.) Third and perhaps most interesting is the placement of a cornettist and a trombonist among the singers. Maximilian names the players in his text: "Stewdl shall be the master of the trombones, Augustin of the cornettiists."

A generation and more ago it was not unusual to hear Renaissance polyphony performed by colorfully heterogeneous ensembles that combined voices and instruments in ways that now seem historically implausible. In subsequent years instrumental participation in vocal music came to be regarded with considerable suspicion, even distaste. Crumhorns and shawms and their kin were banished from sacred repertoire and we grew accustomed to strictly *a cappella* renditions of every sort of polyphonic music. Recently, however, the pendulum has begun to swing back towards a more nuanced view, with considerably enhanced geographical and temporal focus. In the case of Burgundian and Austrian choirs there is, in fact, a great deal of evidence for the combination of instruments with voices in liturgical settings. Between about 1480 and 1520 such instrumental participation usually took the form of a single player or two within the vocal ensemble. For example, at a Mass in Toledo in 1502, described in the chronicle of Antoine de Lalaing, "The singers of the King [Ferdinand] sang one part of the Mass, the singers of monseigneur [Philip the Fair] the other part; master Augustin played the cornet with the singers of monseigneur, which was good to hear with the singers." This Augustin is the same player featured in the *Triumph*, Augustin Schubinger, a virtuoso from an Augsburg family of wind players who spent a large part of his career in service to Habsburg-Burgundian courts. His performances with

the singers of Philip and Maximilian are documented at masses in the Netherlands, France, and Spain, as well as in German lands.

We don't know, however, *what* these wind players—Augustin Schubinger, his colleague Hans Stewdl (or Stewdlin), or any other players under their direction—actually did as part of a vocal ensemble. The most obvious choice, and the one we have adopted, is to have the winds substitute for or double a vocal line, though such a solution moots the question of how simple doubling could have been so impressive that Maximilian in the *Triumph* or a chronicler would name the choir's wind players rather than any of the singers or composers. Perhaps master Augustin was showing off his chops with virtuoso diminutions, weaving ornamentation into the polyphonic texture, but experimentation tends to reveal that finely-wrought vocal polyphony in four to six equal parts is more disturbed than enhanced by added noodling, even more so in the lower parts that Stewdlin must have played. Schubinger and Stewdlin may simply have stood out from the singers on account of the hardware they carried; perhaps the fame they had won by other sorts of performance meant that their presence in any venue was sure to be noticed by the court chroniclers, who are acutely sensitive to the nuances of social standing and reputation; or just possibly they astounded by the beauty of their tone and their ability to convey the nuances of the text, speaking through their instruments.

—Scott Metcalfe

For more on these topics, see the following sources:

Cuyler, Louise. *The emperor Maximilian I and music* (London, 1973).

Fallows, David. *Josquin* (Brepols, 2009), especially pp. 300–2.

Meconi, Honey. *Pierre de la Rue and musical life at the Habsburg-Burgundian court* (Oxford, 2003), *passim*.

Picker, Martin. *The chanson albums of Marguerite of Austria* (Berkeley and Los Angeles, 1965).

\_\_\_\_\_. “Liber selectarum cantionum . . . : a neglected monument of Renaissance music and music printing,” in *Quellenstudien zur Musik der Renaissance* 3 (Wiesbaden, 1998).

Planchart, Alejandro Enrique. “Notes on Heinrich Isaac’s *Virgo prudentissima*.” *The Journal of Musicology* 28:1 (2011), 81–117.

Polk, Keith. *German instrumental music of the late middle ages* (Cambridge, 1992). See also many articles by the same author cited within.

Roberts, Kenneth. *The music of Ludwig Senfl*. PhD. diss., University of Michigan, 1965.

Rothenburg, David J. “The most prudent virgin and the wise king: Isaac’s *Virgo prudentissima* compositions in the imperial ideology of Maximilian I.” *The Journal of Musicology* 28:1 (2011), 34–80.

A reproduction of the complete *Triumph*, with English translations of Maximilian’s captions, may be found in a Dover book edited by Stanley Appelbaum.

Special thanks to the Houghton Library at Harvard University, where I was able to consult an original copy of the *Liber selectarum cantionum*, and also to Harvard’s Loeb Music Library and Isham Memorial Library, where may be found microfilms and facsimile reproductions of the *Liber*, MS 228, and MS Royal 8 G.vii.

## TEXTS & TRANSLATIONS

### **Inviolata, integra et casta es, Maria**

#### *Sequence*

Inviolata, integra et casta es, Maria,  
quae es effecta fulgida caeli porta.  
O mater alma Christi carissima,  
suscipe pia laudum praeconia.

Nostra ut pura pectora sint et corpora,  
quae nunc flagrant devota corda et ora.  
Tua per precata dulcisona  
nobis concedas veniam per secula.

O benigna! O regina! O Maria!  
quae sola inviolata permansiisti.

Inviolata, whole and chaste art thou, O Mary,  
who art made the shining gate of heaven.  
O most beloved, dear mother of Christ,  
receive the pious tokens of our praise,

that our minds and bodies be pure,  
as now devoted hearts and lips implore.  
Through thy sweet-sounding prayers  
grant us pardon forever.

O kindly lady! O Queen! O Mary!  
thou who alone remained inviolate.

### **O Maria, mater Christi**

#### *Paraliturgical Marian text*

O Maria, mater Christi, virgo pia,  
maestorum consolatrix, pauperum adjutrix,  
perditorum restauratrix, lapsorumque pia relevatrix,  
languentium curatrix, nostrae salutis adamatrix.

Ave Domina, deitatis cellula,  
inter omnes virgines castissima,  
te petimus nostra dele facinora,  
quae es caelis altior, terris latior,  
stellis purior, abyso profundior,  
O Maria, cunctis sanctis es sanctior.

O jucunda, tu es Aaron virgula fructifera  
quae fructum vitae, Christum, nobis protulit,  
omnes virtutes omnium lapidum in se continens  
atque cunctarum herbarum vim retinens.

Ave sanctissima, dele peccamina, reprime noxia,  
sensus nostros visita et flagita,  
ut gaudia possideamus caelica post carnis exilium,  
O Maria.

O Mary, mother of Christ, holy virgin,  
consoler of the sorrowful, helper of the poor,  
restorer of the lost, pious relief of the fallen,  
cure of the infirm, great lover of our salvation:

Hail, Lady, shelter of deity,  
most chaste of all virgins:  
we beg you to remove our crimes,  
you who are higher than heaven, broader than the earth,  
purer than the stars, deeper than the abyss,  
O Mary, holier than all the saints.

O happy one, you are Aaron's fruit-bearing rod,  
which for us brought forth the fruit of life, Christ,  
containing in it all the virtues of all precious stones  
and bearing the power of all herbs.

Hail, most holy one, remove sins, curb offenses,  
visit and exhort our senses,  
that we may possess heavenly joys after fleshly exile,  
O Mary.

**Fama, malum qua non aliud velocius ullum:**

mobilitate viget virisque acquirit eundo,  
parva metu primo, mox sese attollit in auras  
ingrediturque solo et caput inter nubila condit.

*Aeneid IV: 174-7*

**Dulces exuviae,** dum fata deusque sinebat,  
accipite hanc animam meque his exolvite curis.

Vixi et quem dederat cursum fortuna peregi  
et nunc magna mei sub terras ibit imago.

*Aeneid IV: 651-8*

Rumor, of all evils the swiftest:

speed lends her strength, and she wins vigor as she goes;  
small at first through fear, soon she mounts up to heaven  
and walks the ground with head hidden in the clouds.

O relics once dear, while Fate and God allowed,  
take this spirit and release me from my woes!

I have lived, I have finished the course that Fortune gave,  
and now in majesty my shade shall pass beneath the earth.

*(adapted from translation by H. R. Fairclough)*

**Beati omnes**

*Psalm 127 (128)*

Beati omnes qui timent Dominum, qui ambulabant  
in viis ejus.

Labores manuum tuarum quia manducabis: beatus  
es, et bene tibi erit.

Uxor tua sicut vitis abundans, in lateribus domus  
tuae: filii tui sicut novellae olivarum, in circuitu  
mensae tuae.

Ecce sic benedicetur homo qui timet Dominum.

Benedicat tibi Dominus ex Sion: et videas bona  
Jerusalem omnibus diebus vitae tuae.

Et videas filios filiorum tuorum, pacem super Israel.

Blessed are all those who fear the Lord, who walk in his  
ways.

For thou shalt eat the labor of thine hands: blessed art  
thou, and it shall be well with thee.

Thy wife shall be as a fruitful vine by the sides of thine  
house: thy children like young olive trees round about thy  
table.

Behold, thus shall be blessed the man who feareth the Lord.

The Lord shall bless thee out of Zion: and thou shalt see  
the good of Jerusalem all the days of thy life.

And thou shalt see thy children's children, and peace upon  
Israel.





## Salve crux

*Various texts for the feast of the  
Exaltation of the Holy Cross*

Salve crux, arbor / vitae praeclarae / vexillum Christi  
/ thronus et ara.

O crux, profanis / terror et ruina / tu christianis /  
virtus et divina / salus et victoria.

Tu properantis / contra Maxentium / tu proeliantis /  
iuxta Danubium / Constantini gloria.

Favens Heraclio / perdis cum filio / Chosroe  
profanum. / In hoc salutari / ligno gloriari / decet  
christianum.

Crucis longum, latum / sublime, profundum /  
sanctis propalatum / quadrum salvat mundum /  
sub quadri figura.

Medicina vera / Christus in statera / crucis est  
distractus / pretiumque factus / solvit  
mortis iura.

Crux est nostrae / libra iustitiae / sceptrum regis /  
virga potentiae.

Crux coelestis / signum victoriae / belli robur / et  
palma gloriae.

Tu scala, tu ratis / tu crux desperatis / tabula  
suprema / tu de membris Christi / decorem  
traxisti / regum diadema.

O crux, lignum triumphale / mundi vera salus, vale. /  
Inter ligna nullum tale / fronde, flore, germine.

Per lignum crucis de inimicis nostris libera nos, Deus  
noſter.

Hail, Cross, most glorious tree of life, Christ's banner,  
throne, and altar.

O Cross, to the heathen a terror and ruin, to Christians  
you are divine virtue, salvation, and victory.

You are the glory of Constantine, hastening against  
Maxentius and doing battle beside the Danube.

Helping Heraclius, you destroy the heathen Chosroes  
with his son. It beseems a Christian to glory in this  
tree of salvation.

The length, breadth, height, and depth of the cross,  
revealed to the saints in the form of a square, saves the  
four corners of the earth.

Christ, the true remedy, was torn apart on the weigh-  
beam of the cross and, having become the price [of  
salvation], redeemed the rights of death.

The Cross is the balance of our justice, the King's sceptre,  
the rod of power.

Heavenly Cross, sign of victory, strength in war and  
palm of glory.

You ladder, you raft, you last plank for those in despair,  
from Christ's limbs you have taken the beautiful  
crown of kings.

O Cross, tree of triumph, true salvation of the world, hail.  
Among trees is none such in leaf, flower, and germ.

By the wood of the Cross deliver us from our enemies, O  
you our God.

*(adapted from translation by Leofranc Holford-  
Strevens)*



## Virgo prudentissima

*Coronation motet. Cantus firmus: antiphon to the Magnificat at first Vespers on the Feast of the Assumption*

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, archangeli et angeli et alme  
Virtutesque, throni vos principum et agmina sancta,  
Vosque potestates et tu dominatio caeli,  
Flammantes cherubin verbo seraphinque creati—  
An vos leticie tantus perfuderit nunquam  
Sensus, ut eterni matrem vidisse tonantis  
Consessum, coelo terraque marique potentem  
Reginam, cuius numen 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 capelle,  
Austriacae praesul regionis sedulus omni  
Se in tua commendat studio pia gaudia, mater.  
Praecipuum tamen est illi quo assumpta fuisti,  
Quo tu pulchra ut luna micat, electa es et ut sol.

[*cantus firmus*]

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

When the virgin most wise, who brought holy joys to the  
world, transcended all the spheres, dissolved the stars  
beneath her feet with shining beams and sparkling light,  
and, surrounded by the nine Orders and received by the  
thrice-three Hierarchies, stood before the face of the  
supreme God as patroness of suppliants:  
Say, you who inhabit the dazzling heights of Olympus—  
noble Spirits, Archangels and Angels and gracious  
Virtues, you Thrones of princes and holy Armies, you  
Powers and you Heavenly Sovereignty, fiery Cherubim  
and Seraphim created from the Word—whether such a  
sense of joy ever overwhelmed you as when you beheld  
the resounding assembly of the mother of the eternal  
almighty: the Queen, powerful in Heaven, on land and at  
sea, whose divine majesty is now rightly venerated and  
adored by every spirit and human being.

You, Michael, Gabriel, Raphael, we call upon to  
pour upon her ears chaste vows and prayers for the  
holy Empire, for the Emperor Maximilian. May the  
omnipotent Virgin grant that he conquer his wicked  
enemies; may he restore peace to the people and safety  
to the lands. With devoted skill Georgius, singer and  
master of the Emperor's chapel, directs this hymn to you:  
Bishop of the Austrian region, diligent in all things, he  
earnestly commends himself to your tender joys, Mother.  
The highest place, however, belongs to Him by whom  
you were borne upwards, to whom you shine fair as the  
moon and are as bright as the sun.

Virgin most wise, whither do you go, shining brightly  
like the rosy dawn?  
Daughter of Sion, you are all beautiful and sweet,  
fair as the moon, bright as the sun.



## BLUE HERON

The vocal ensemble **Blue Heron** has been acclaimed by *The Boston Globe* as “one of the Boston music community’s indispensables” and hailed by Alex Ross in *The New Yorker* for the “expressive intensity” of its interpretations; the *Boston Musical Intelligencer* calls Blue Heron “a fantastic model for the fully-realized potential of early music performance in the 21st century.” Combining a commitment to vivid live performance with the study of original source materials and historical performance practices, Blue Heron ranges over a wide and fascinating repertoire, including fifteenth-century English and Franco-Flemish polyphony, from Dunstable and Du Fay through Ockeghem to the generation of Josquin; Spanish music between 1500 and 1600; and neglected early sixteenth-century English music, especially the rich repertoire of the Peterhouse partbooks, copied c. 1540 for Canterbury Cathedral. The ensemble has also reached outside these areas to perform very early music (organum by the twelfth-century French composer Perotin) and very recent music (new works by the Australian composer Elliott Gyger).

Blue Heron’s first CD, featuring music by Guillaume Du Fay, was released in 2007; its second, of music from the Peterhouse partbooks by Hugh Aston, Robert Jones, and John Mason, followed in 2010. Both discs have received international critical acclaim and the Peterhouse CD made the Billboard charts. The second volume of Blue Heron’s 5-CD series *Music from the Peterhouse Partbooks*, featuring music of Nicholas Ludford and Richard Pygott, has just been released.

Founded in 1999, Blue Heron presents subscription series in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and in New York City. The ensemble has appeared at the Boston Early Music Festival; in New York City at The Cloisters, the 92nd Street Y, and Music Before 1800; at Dumbarton Oaks in Washington, D.C., and Monadnock Music in New Hampshire; in Pittsburgh for the Renaissance and Baroque Society; and with the wind band Piffaro

and the viol consort Parthenia in Philadelphia. Blue Heron made its West Coast debut at Festival Mozaic in San Luis Obispo, California, and will return to California this June for a debut at the Berkeley Early Music Festival.

**Jennifer Ashe**, soprano, has been hailed by the *Boston Phoenix* for her “rock solid technique” and “the kind of vocal velvet you don’t often hear in contemporary music.” Ashe is a familiar face in the Boston new music scene, frequently performing on series such as Harvard Group for New Music, New Music Brandeis, and the Fromm Festival at Harvard. She is a senior member of the Callithumpian Consort led by Steven Drury, and the soprano for the Boston Microtonal Society’s chamber ensemble NotaRiotous. She is also a founding member of the flute and soprano duo Prana, with Alicia DiDonato. Formerly on the faculty at the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, MA, she is currently an Assistant Professor at Eastern Connecticut State University.

Baritone **Dashon Burton**, a native of Bronx, NY, has been praised in *The New York Times* for his “nobility and rich tone.” He began studies at Case Western Reserve University and graduated from the Oberlin College Conservatory of Music. Upon graduation, he was invited to join Cantus, a professional men’s classical vocal ensemble based in Minneapolis. After finishing his tenure with Cantus in 2009, Dashon completed an MM at Yale University’s Institute of Sacred Music. His solo repertoire includes such diverse works as Monteverdi’s *Vespers of 1610*, Jesus in Bach’s *St. Matthew Passion*, Mendelssohn’s *Elijah*, and Ned Rorem’s song cycle *War Scenes*. He is also a co-founding member of Roomful of Teeth, an ensemble devoted to new compositions using the fullest possible range of vocal techniques.

Upon finishing his degree at San Diego State University in 1975, **Michael Collver** continued his musical education in Switzerland at the Schola Cantorum

Basiliensis, specializing in early vocal techniques and cornetto. His collaboration with the Schola has continued since then with residencies involving special projects, recordings, books, and research publications. Mr. Collver is a founding member of Project Ars Nova (P.A.N.), with which he has concertized. His performances have also included solo work with Ensemble Sequentia of Cologne, the Empire Brass Quintet, Tafelmusik, Boston Baroque and the Boston Camerata. Many of these concerts have been augmented by recordings with Telarc International, Erato, Deutsche EMI and Harmonia Mundi. As an oratorio soloist he has performed with orchestras ranging from Aston Magna to the Los Angeles Philharmonic.

**Pamela Dellal**, mezzo-soprano, is an acclaimed soloist and recitalist whose singing has been praised for her “exquisite vocal color,” “musical sensitivity,” and “eloquent phrasing.” She has been featured in leading roles in operas of Purcell, Mozart, Britten, and others. With Sequentia, Ms. Dellal has recorded the music of Hildegard von Bingen and toured the US, Europe, and Australia. Passionate about chamber music, early music, and contemporary music, she performs frequently with Dinosaur Annex, Boston Musica Viva, Ensemble Chaconne, Blue Heron, and the Musicians of the Old Post Road. She has been a regular soloist in the Emmanuel Music Bach Cantata series for twenty-five years and has performed almost all 200 of Bach’s extant sacred cantatas. Recent appearances include the premiere of a new John Harbison work, *The Seven Ages*, at Merkin Concert Hall in New York City, followed by performances in San Francisco, Boston and London.

Bass-baritone **Paul Guttry** enjoys the variety of opera, oratorio, and a specialization in early music. A former member of Chanticleer, Paul has performed throughout the USA and internationally with Sequentia, the Boston Camerata, and New York’s Ensemble for Early Music. He has appeared in concert and opera with the Seattle Early Music Guild, St. Paul’s Ex

Machina, the Plymouth Music Series in Minneapolis, the Austin-based choir Conspirare, and the Santa Fe Pro Musica. In Boston he has appeared as soloist with Emmanuel Music, the Handel & Haydn Society, the Boston Early Music Festival, the Tanglewood Music Center, Cantata Singers, Boston Cecilia, Prism Opera, Intermezzo, Boston Revels, and Collage. In addition to Blue Heron’s discs, Paul can be heard on recordings of medieval music by Sequentia, Kurt Weill’s *Johnny Johnson* and French *airs de cour* with the Boston Camerata, and music of Bach by Emmanuel Music.

Praised by *The New York Times* for his “appealingly textured sound,” baritone **David McFerrin** is building a critically acclaimed career across a variety of genres. Recently he debuted with Boston Lyric Opera in Handel’s *Agrippina*, with Opera Boston in Berlioz’ *Beatrice et Benedict*, and with Seattle Opera in the world premiere production of Daron Hagen’s *Amelia*. Other operatic roles have included Guglielmo in *Così fan tutte*, Aeneas in *Dido and Aeneas* and Taddeo in *L’Italiana in Algeri*. On the concert stage, Mr. McFerrin has performed Monteverdi’s *Vespers* at St. Mark’s Basilica in Venice, with Maestro Gustavo Dudamel and the Israel Philharmonic in Carnegie Hall, and with the Boston Pops. He has also sung with the Green Mountain Project and at the Blossom, Marlboro, and Caramoor Festivals, and has completed a residency with the French ensemble *Les Arts Florissants*. A resident of Boston, he has been a soloist with various local choral ensembles, sings with the Handel & Haydn Society, and serves as bass section leader for the choirs at Trinity Church.

Tenor **Owen McIntosh** is the recipient of a master’s degree from the New England Conservatory of Music and is quickly gaining a reputation at home and abroad. His most recent performances include the Evangelist in St. Luke and St. John Passions by Teleman, the role of Coprimario in Opera Boston’s production of *The Nose*, and a Jordan Hall performance of Benjamin Britten’s *Serenade* for tenor and horn. He

was featured as a soloist in the 2009 Festival Ensemble Stuttgart and sang solo roles in the NEC production of *L'Egisto*, the Kurt Weill Festival's *Hin und Zurück* in Dessau, Germany, and *Così fan tutte* and *Gianni Schicchi* with the North Star Opera Repertory Theater. Mr. McIntosh performs with various Boston-based ensembles including Exsultemus, Boston Baroque, Blue Heron, Juventas New Music, Boston Secession, and Opera Boston. He recently sang the role of David in Helios Early Opera's production of Charpentier's *David et Jonathas*.

Tenor **Jason McStoots** has performed around the world and throughout the US in opera, oratorio, and recital. He has been described by critics as “a natural, a believable actor and a first-rate singer,” “light and bluff, but neither lightweight nor bland, and with exemplary enunciation,” and as having “a silken tenor voice” and “sweet, appealing tone.” Recent appearances include a Japanese tour of Bach's *St. Matthew Passion* and his European debut in the *Christmas Oratorio* with the Bach Ensemble in Belgium, both under the direction of Joshua Rifkin; Monteverdi's *Return of Ulysses* and 1610 *Vespers* in Seattle, directed by Stephen Stubbs; and Handel's *Acis and Galatea* with the Boston Early Music Festival. McStoots has appeared with the Green Mountain Project, Boston Lyric Opera, Pacific MusicWorks, the Boston Camerata, the Handel Choir of Baltimore, the New Haven Symphony, Tragicomedia, and the Tanglewood Music Center. He can be heard on recordings with Blue Heron on the Blue Heron label and, for the CPO label, on the Grammy-nominated recording of Lully's *Psyché* and a newly-released disc of music by Marc-Antoine Charpentier and John Blow.

**Scott Metcalfe** has gained wide recognition as one of North America's leading specialists in music from the fifteenth through seventeenth centuries and beyond. Musical and artistic director of Blue Heron, he is also music director of New York City's Green Mountain

Project (Jolle Greenleaf, artistic director), whose performances of Monteverdi's *Vespers* have been hailed by *The New York Times* as “quite simply terrific” and by *The Boston Globe* as “stupendous.” Metcalfe has been a guest director of TENET (New York), Emmanuel Music (Boston), the Tudor Choir and Seattle Baroque, Pacific Baroque Orchestra (Vancouver, BC), Quire Cleveland, and the Dryden Ensemble (Princeton, NJ), and he conducted Early Music America's Young Performers Festival Ensemble in its inaugural performance at the 2011 Boston Early Music Festival. Metcalfe also enjoys a career as a baroque violinist and currently plays with Cleveland's Les Délices (dir. Debra Nagy), Montreal's Arion, and other ensembles in Boston, Montreal, and elsewhere. When not playing or directing, he is at work on a new edition of the songs of Gilles Binchois and teaches choral repertoire and performance practice at Boston University.

Countertenor **Martin Near** began his professional singing life at age ten in the choir of men and boys at Saint Thomas Fifth Avenue in New York City, advancing to Head Chorister. Mr. Near enjoys a varied singing career, exploring his passions for early music—both as a soloist and in ensemble settings—and new music. In March 2011 he took the role of Hamor in Handel's *Jephtha* with Boston Cecilia, and was noted for his “fine work” in Buxtehude's *Heut triumphieret Gottes Sohn* with Boston Baroque. In 2008, Mr. Near appeared as alto soloist with Boston Cecilia in Bach's *Mass in B Minor*, and was praised as “winsome and lyrical” in the role of David in Handel's *Saul* with the Harvard University Choir and Baroque Orchestra in 2009. He also relishes ensemble work as a renowned ensemble singer with Emmanuel Music, Boston Baroque, and Handel & Haydn Society, and as a producer for Cut Circle's upcoming CD release, *Roman Warriors: L'homme armé Masses* by Marbrianus de Orto and Josquin des Prez. A founding member of the professional early music ensemble Exsultemus, Mr. Near has been Music Director since



2009. Upcoming engagements include appearing as countertenor soloist in Dominick DiOrio's *Stabat Mater* with Juventas New Music Ensemble in November.

**Mack Ramsey** specializes in the performance of repertoires ranging from the fifteenth to the eighteenth centuries. Equally at home on a number of different wind instruments, he has been especially fascinated with the role of the municipal and court wind bands of the sixteenth century and the special skills and performance practices that help us interpret this music. Mack performs on bass sackbut with the seventeenth-century ensemble Dark Horse Consort, with the Green Mountain Project, and with other wind bands and orchestras such as The Toronto Consort, Tafelmusik, Piffaro, The Whole Noyse, Boston Baroque, and ARTEK.

Grammy-nominated tenor **Aaron Sheehan** has quickly established himself as one of the leading American tenors of his generation. His voice is heard regularly in the U.S. and Europe and he is equally comfortable in repertoire ranging from oratorio and chamber music to the opera stage. His singing has taken him to many festivals and venues, including Tanglewood, Lincoln Center, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Washington National Cathedral, the early music festivals of Boston, San Francisco, Houston, Tucson, Washington, D.C., and Madison. Known especially for his Baroque interpretations, Aaron has made a name as a first-rate singer of oratorios and cantatas. He has appeared in concert with Blue Heron, the Green Mountain Project, Orpheus Chamber Orchestra, American Bach Soloists, Handel and Haydn Society, Boston Baroque, North Carolina Symphony, Charlotte Symphony, Boston Cecilia, Charleston Bach Festival, Baltimore Handel Choir, Pacific Choral, Boston Early Music Festival, Tempesta di Mare, Aston Magna Festival, Washington National Cathedral, Bach Collegium San Diego, Tragicomedia, Folger Consort, and Les Voix Baroques.

Tenor **Mark Sprinkle** has sung throughout the US and Europe, collaborating with the Boston Early Music Festival, the Boston Camerata, the Mark Morris Dance Group, Emmanuel Music, Concerto Palatino, Boston Baroque, the Cambridge Bach Ensemble, the Handel & Haydn Society, and Blue Heron. An active Bach Evangelist, he has sung the part with the Boulder Bach Festival, the Oriana Singers of Vermont, Seraphim Singers, the Andover Choral Society, Boston's Chorus Pro Musica, and the Handel & Haydn Society, among others. He was a fellow of the Britten Pears Institute, Aldeburgh, UK. He teaches voice privately in Boston and in Maine.

**Shari Wilson** is among the new generation of singers specializing in early and modern music. The range of ensembles with which she has appeared testifies to her versatility and stylistic sensitivity: Blue Heron, Exsultemus, La Donna Musicale, Lorelei Ensemble, Choral Arts Society of Philadelphia, Piffaro, Schola Cantorum, Boston Secession, and the Festival of Two Worlds (Spoleto, Italy). Shari made her New York City solo debut in 2006 at Merkin Hall in a world premiere performance of Benjamin C.S. Boyle's *Cantata: To One in Paradise*; recent performances have also included concerts in San Francisco with the American Bach Soloists under the direction of Jeffrey Thomas. Her work at the Festival of Two Worlds brought collaborations with artists including Gian Carlo Menotti, Richard Hickox, Carlos Saura, and Gunther Kramer. She sings with the acclaimed ensemble The Crossing, based in Philadelphia under the direction of Donald Nally, with whom she performed the regional premiere of David Lang's *Little Match Girl Passion*, and she can be heard on the recent recording of Kile Smith's *Vespers* with Piffaro and The Crossing. Of a recent Bach performance a Philadelphia critic wrote that she "sang with ... tonal beauty, timbral clarity, lyrical phrasing and rhythmic vitality."

# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Blue Heron is much more than an ensemble of musicians. Without the devotion, hard work and financial support of a community of board members, staff, volunteers, donors, and concertgoers, Blue Heron would not exist. Those of us fortunate enough to have music as our trade give most grateful thanks to all those who join us in this endeavor of creating, nurturing and sustaining an organization dedicated to making the music of the 15th and 16th centuries come alive in the 21st.

Thanks to our rehearsal hosts, The Church of the Good Shepherd in Watertown.

Evan Ingersoll (Angstrom Images) designs our programs and built our website, Erik Bertrand maintains the website, Chris Clark (Cave Dog Studio) designs our publicity materials and program covers, and Philip Davis records our concerts. All of them support us generously in ways that extend beyond their professional services. We are fortunate to have such expertise on our side.

Thanks to The Cambridge Society for Early Music for supporting the pre-concert talks.

Many thanks to all our volunteers for their help this evening and throughout the year.

We are honored and grateful to have so many generous donors. Blue Heron would not exist without you. Many thanks to you all!

## DONATIONS FROM MARCH 18, 2011 THROUGH MARCH 18, 2012

### ANGEL (\$5,000 +)

Philip H. Davis  
William & Elizabeth Metcalfe  
Harry J. Silverman

### BENEFACTOR (\$2,500 – \$4,999)

John A. Carey  
Fred Franklin & Kaaren Grimstad  
Benjamin Krepp  
Massachusetts Cultural Council  
Erin E. McCoy  
Katherine L. Rosenfield  
Michal Truelsen & Jody Wormhoudt

### GUARANTOR (\$1,000 – \$2,499)

Peter Belknap & Jennifer Snodgrass  
Peggy & Jim Bradley  
Laurie Francis-Wright  
Mary Eliot Jackson  
Linda C. Black Foundation  
Scott Metcalfe  
Peter & Cindy Nebolsine  
Richard L. Schmeidler  
Rachael Solem  
William J. Vaughan  
Giovanna Vitelli

### PATRON (\$500 – \$999)

Anonymous  
John Paul & Diane Britton  
Elizabeth Davidson  
John & Ellen Harris  
Arthur Hornig  
Maßwood Charitable Foundation  
Anne H. Matthews  
Therry Neilsen-Steinhardt  
Susan S. Poverman  
Cheryl K. Ryder  
Joan Margot Smith  
Robert B. Strassler

#### SPONSOR (\$250 – \$499)

Anonymous (2)  
 Gail & Darryl Abbey  
 Rev'd Dr. Andrew C. Blume  
 Spyros Braoudakis  
 John F. Dooley  
 Diane L. Droste  
 David R. Elliott  
 Aaron Ellison & Elizabeth  
   Farnsworth  
 Marie-Pierre & Michael Ellmann  
 Connie & Don Goldstein  
 Lydia Knutson & Fred Langenegger  
 Richard O'Connor & Julianne  
   Lindsay  
 Michael P. McDonald  
 James Meyer  
 Richard & Janet Post  
 Tracy Powers  
 Andrew Sigel  
 Daniel Stillman  
 John Yannis

#### SUPPORTER (\$100 – \$249)

Anonymous (3)  
 Lorraine Adams  
 Julie Rohwein & Jonathan Aibel  
 Constantine Alexander & Linda  
   Reinfeld  
 Andy & Margaret Ashe  
 Michael Beattie  
 Marie-Hélène Bernard  
 Thomas Bisson  
 Linda Black  
 David S. Brenner  
 Robert Cochran  
 Maureen A. Conroy  
 Nathaniel S. & Catherine E.  
   Coolidge  
 Dorothy L. Crawford  
 In Memory of Joseph Davin  
 Elizabeth Davis  
 May & Carl Daw  
 Pamela Dellal  
 Michael J. Demkowicz  
 Roseanne T. Dobbin  
 Alan Durfee  
 Samuel Engel & Anne Freeh Engel  
 Kathleen Fay  
 Michelle Gurel

Kenneth Hoffman & Kathleen  
   Blanchard  
 Elaine Hubert & Bill Harwood  
 Jane Wegscheider Hyman  
 Ron Lacro & Jon Schum  
 Samuel Lorber  
 Deborah Malamud & Neal Plotkin  
 James Martin  
 Amy Meltzer & Philip McArthur  
 Eiji Miki & Jane Hever  
 Amy Miller  
 Sarah M. Guilford and William  
   Miniscalco  
 Virginia Newes  
 Julianne Lindsay & Richard  
   O'Connor  
 Keith Ohmart & Helen Chen  
 Ann Besser Scott  
 Jonathan Singer  
 Tom & Valerie Stone  
 Richard Tarrant  
 Martha Weisberg  
 Carol B. Wetmore  
 Alex Yannis

#### FRIEND (\$50 – \$99)

Anonymous (3)  
 Noël Bisson  
 Robert Burger  
 Virginia Chapin  
 Scott Clugstone  
 Martha W. Davidson  
 Jeffrey Del Papa & Susan Assmann  
 Hope Ehn  
 Harriet Feinberg  
 Carol Fishman  
 Sarah Gates  
 Ivan Hansen  
 Phyllis Klein  
 Pat Krol  
 Elise Landau  
 Penelope Lane  
 Catherine Liddell  
 Mark Warren McLaughlin  
 Elizabeth Meyer  
 Mary Lynn Ritchie  
 Katy Roth  
 Samuel Rubin & Jennifer Farley  
   Smith  
 Cynthia C. Schlaikjer

An Sokolovska  
 Polly Sutton Stevens  
 Susan Cornwall  
 Richard Turbet  
 Lloyd Van Lunen & Margaret  
   Wilson  
 Dr. Marsha Vannicelli  
 Lee Warren  
 Linda C. Woodford  
 Margaret & Daniel Wright  
 Elizabeth Wylde

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

John A. Yannis, president  
 Erin McCoy, treasurer  
 Richard L. Schmeidler, clerk  
   Andrew Blume  
   Philip H. Davis  
   Harry Silverman  
 Christopher Thorpe  
 Giovanna Vitelli

#### OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

Gail Abbey

#### ADMINISTRATIVE CONSULTANT

Carole Friedman

#### VOLUNTEERS

Darryl Abbey  
 Daryl Bichel  
 Jaime Bonney  
   Luca Daniel  
   Sue Delaney  
   Barney Gage  
 Michelle Gurel  
 Alexandra Hawley  
 Anne Kazlauskas  
 Benjamin Krepp  
   Joel Mulkern  
   John Nesby  
 Beth Parkhurst  
 Cheryl Ryder  
 Cynthia C. Schlaikjer  
   Julie Shapiro  
 Jennifer Farley Smith  
 Gerry Weisenberg

## BLUE HERON UNDERTAKES A 5-CD RECORDING PROJECT OF MUSIC FROM THE PETERHOUSE PARTBOOKS

**I**t is with great excitement that we announce the release this month of the second installment in our series of Music from the Peterhouse Partbooks, featuring Nicholas Ludford's radiant *Missa Regnum mundi* and the grandly-scaled *Salve regina* by Richard Pygott. See details on the next page.

Blue Heron will record three more CDs in the series over the next few years. The Peterhouse partbooks, copied in 1540 for Canterbury Cathedral, are the largest and most important extant source of pre-Reformation English sacred music, but the repertoire has gone unsung, unheard, and unregarded, largely on account of the disappearance, centuries ago, of one of the five partbooks and a portion of another. For providing a remedy to this situation we are indebted to the English musicologist Nick Sandon, retired from the University of Exeter, who has devoted the greatest part of his professional life to the Peterhouse music and by now has published brilliant and idiomatic reconstructions of nearly all of the incomplete music. Blue Heron has been involved with the Peterhouse repertoire since its founding in 1999 and is deeply steeped in the particularities of its richly melismatic style; the ensemble is thus ideally suited to act as an ambassador on behalf of this wonderful music and Doctor Sandon, its devoted restorer, who has joined Blue Heron as an advisor in this undertaking.

A set of five CDs will surely help restore the Peterhouse repertoire to the central position in music history and in concert life that it merits. This is an expensive and ambitious undertaking, and we thank those who have provided seed money in this early phase. Please consider providing a significant gift in support of our plans for a 5-CD Peterhouse set, which will help expose more and more of this important repertoire to the world. Please contact John Yannis ([jy@blueheronchoir.org](mailto:jy@blueheronchoir.org)) to discuss plans for a special recording fund.

Blue Heron's series of recordings of music from the Peterhouse Partbooks is made possible by our Peterhouse Partners, a leadership group of donors who pledge support for the complete 5-disc series, enabling Blue Heron to bring this extraordinary and neglected repertoire to a wider modern audience. We are deeply grateful for their vision, commitment, and generosity.

### BLUE HERON'S PETERHOUSE PARTNERS

Peter Belknap  
& Jennifer Snodgrass

Peggy & Jim Bradley

John A. Carey

Philip H. Davis

Fred Franklin & Kaaren Grimstad

Mary Eliot Jackson

Benjamin Krepp  
Anne H. Matthews

Erin E. McCoy

Scott Metcalfe

William & Elizabeth Metcalfe

Eiji Miki & Jane Hever

Richard L. Schmeidler

Harry J. Silverman

Rachael Solem

Christopher Thorpe

William J. Vaughan

Giovanna Vitelli

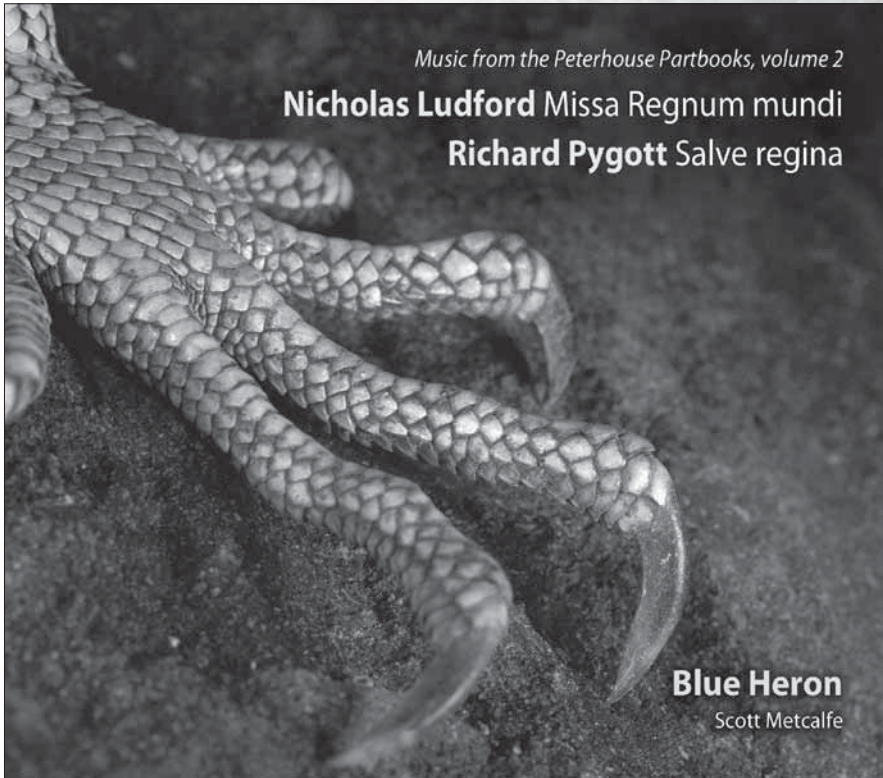
Michal Truelsen

& Jody Wormhoudt

To learn more about becoming a Peterhouse Partner, please contact Blue Heron at [office@blueheronchoir.org](mailto:office@blueheronchoir.org).



# JUST RELEASED!



Music from the Peterhouse Partbooks, vol. 2  
Nicholas Ludford *Missa Regnum mundi* · Richard Pygott *Salve regina*  
Restored by Nick Sandon

The second installment in Blue Heron's 5-CD series of *Music from the Peterhouse Partbooks* features Nicholas Ludford's radiant *Missa Regnum mundi*, sung in a musical context like that of its probable original occasion, a festal mass for St Margaret, with plainchant items from the Proper according to the Use of Salisbury. The disc concludes with Richard Pygott's extraordinary *Salve regina*, one of the longest votive antiphons extant and a marvel of rhetorical expression.

This is the world premiere recording of all the music on the disc.



MUSIC FROM THE PETERHOUSE PARTBOOKS, VOL. 1

## HUGH ASTON: THREE MARIAN ANTIPHONS

ROBERT JONES: *MAGNIFICAT* · JOHN MASON: *QUALES SUMUS O MISERI*



Blue Heron's second CD presents superb music by three English composers of the early 16th century: Hugh Aston, Robert Jones, and John Mason. Although their music is gorgeous and of superlative quality, Aston, Jones, and Mason are virtually unknown to performers and scholars today, for the primary extant source of the music—in the case of Robert Jones's, the sole extant source—is now incomplete through the loss of one partbook and a portion of another, out of an original set of five. The set, known as the Peterhouse partbooks for its present location in the library of Peterhouse, Cambridge, was copied in 1540 for Canterbury Cathedral and is the largest and most important source of English music surviving from the period just before the Reformation; it contains over seventy works, fifty of which are unique to Peterhouse. Blue Heron's recording uses brilliantly idiomatic reconstructions by Nick Sandon, a British musicologist now living in France, who has devoted his career to the music of the Peterhouse partbooks.

This is the first disc in a projected series of recordings of music from the Peterhouse partbooks and includes world premiere recordings of three works and the first of another in the form recorded here.

“...my sense of Aston's voice owes much to Blue Heron's imaginative realization of his scores. Through an array of interpretive choices – fine gradations of dynamics; pungent diction; telling contrasts of ethereal and earthly timbres; tempos that are more lusty than languid; a way of propelling a phrase toward a goal – the music takes on narrative momentum, its moods dovetailing with the theme of the text. It is good to feel a hint of turbulence, of mortal fear, in performances such as Blue Heron's ...; with that quiver of passion, the music inspires even greater awe.”

Alex Ross | *The New Yorker*, January 10, 2011

“simply gorgeous....Each selection is a gem....a splendid addition to anyone's collection.”

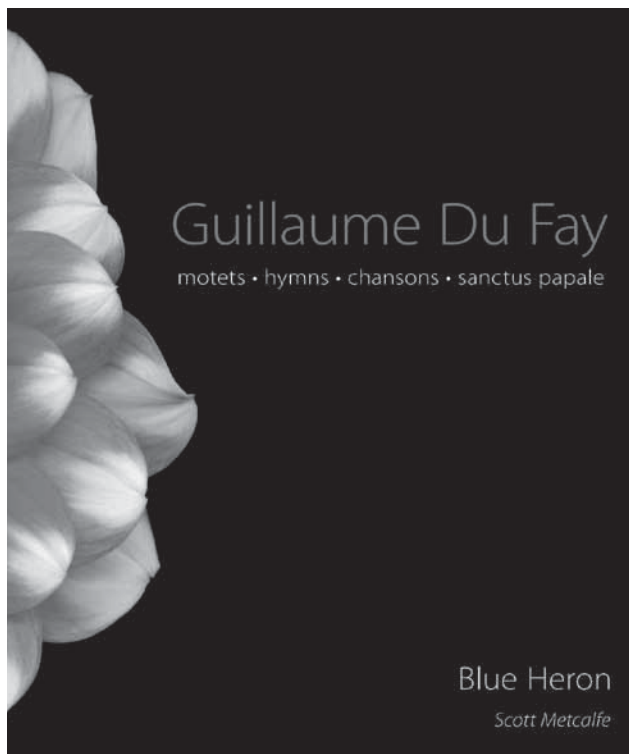
Karen Cook | *Early Music America*, Spring 2011

“... the American ensemble BLUE HERON [has] a fine sense of the idiom of this distinctive music, and their performances are rich, muscular and expressive ... the singing and interpretations are impeccable.”

D. James Ross | *Early Music Review* (UK), June 2010

“It would be impossible to overstate the luscious beauty of this recording, and its deep musical and historical significance is beyond argument. The sound quality is warm, rich and inviting. ...I simply have to rate this disc as utterly essential in every way.”

Rick Anderson | *Music Media Monthly*, June 2010



## ON SALE TODAY

Blue Heron's first CD, featuring music of Guillaume Du Fay, including three iso-rhythmic motets, two hymns, the Sanctus "Papale," and a selection of chansons. Also available through our website, and through CD Baby: [www.cdbaby.com](http://www.cdbaby.com).

*... glorious performances with incandescent singing ... a triumph for an American ensemble in a field long dominated by Europeans.*

Craig Zeichner | *Early Music America*, Fall 2007

*This debut marks Blue Heron as a leading new actor in the field of early Renaissance music, both for studying the sources and bringing them to life.... Altogether, this is one of the finest Dufay collections to come out in recent years...*

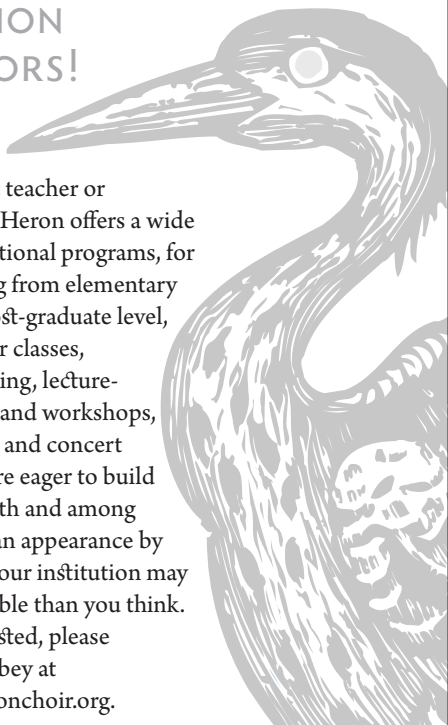
J. F. Weber | *Fanfare*, September/October 2007

*The most attractive aspect of this recital is its feeling of immediacy and freshness.... For me, the high points are the Sanctus Papale, for which it is very welcome to have such a confident and poised rendition; and some of the later songs, for example Malheureux cuer, que veux tu faire, and the cheeky Puisque vous estes campieur... More, please.*

Fabrice Fitch | *Goldberg*, August/September 2007

## ATTENTION EDUCATORS!

Are you a music teacher or professor? Blue Heron offers a wide variety of educational programs, for students ranging from elementary school to the post-graduate level, including master classes, ensemble coaching, lecture-demonstrations, and workshops, as well as recital and concert programs. We are eager to build relationships with and among educators, and an appearance by Blue Heron at your institution may be more affordable than you think. If you are interested, please contact Gail Abbey at [office@blueheronchoir.org](mailto:office@blueheronchoir.org).



## JOIN

Join Blue Heron's mailing list to receive all the news about our concerts in the Boston area, in New York, and on the road. If you sign up for the e-mail list, you will also receive our quarterly newsletter, only available through e-mail, and bulletins about special events, such as workshops, educational events, parties, and CD releases. All this can be done through our website, [blueheronchoir.org](http://blueheronchoir.org), where you will also find a detailed concert history, past programs and notes, essays on performance practice, pictures of the musicians, podcasts, and more.



## BLUE HERON WORKSHOP

Sing music selected from our March and June programs,  
under the direction of Scott Metcalfe.

Open to all; pre-registration required.

**Saturday, April 14, 2012 · 10:00 am–2:30 pm**  
(*box lunch provided*)

### **Church of the Good Shepherd**

9 Russell Ave. (corner of Mt. Auburn St.), Watertown  
fully accessible · on the 71 bus line near Watertown Square

*\$45 per person (includes box lunch)*

Register through the website ([www.blueheronchoir.org](http://www.blueheronchoir.org)),  
email us ([office@blueheronchoir.org](mailto:office@blueheronchoir.org)),  
or phone us at (617) 960-7956.

## *The* Boston Musical Intelligencer

*the go-to online journal for a focused  
calendar, reviews, and articles  
by musicians and music academics  
about classical music in greater Boston*

**CLASSICAL-SCENE.COM**

Robert D. Levin, *editor*  
Bettina A. Norton, *executive editor*  
F. Lee Eiseman, *publisher*

3,500+ concerts listed  
1,000+ reviews  
18,000 hits/day

*"One of the year's ten best"*  
—*Boston Phoenix* (2010)

*recommended by Alex Ross*  
*in The New Yorker*



**ARTSBOSTON**

**Write  
a review  
about us on  
ArtsBoston.org**

### COLOPHON

*cover image:* Portrait of Emperor  
Maximilian I and family, by  
Bernhard Strigel (1465–1528),  
courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

*background image:* our current-favorite  
image of fan vaulting is  
Steve Cadman's photo of the  
Peterborough Retrochoir,  
Creative Commons license.

Text is set in Adobe *Arno Pro*, titles in  
HYPATIA SANS PRO.

program design by Evan Ingersoll  
program content copyright ©2012 Blue  
Heron Renaissance Choir, Inc.