

Vox Nostra

Veri Solis Radius

Musical networks in medieval Europe

Songs from music manuscripts were in great demand in the middle ages, and they circulated in many different ways: orally, notated by trained scribes or given as a gift. The paths of repertorial exchange can be traced across the whole of Europe by the many concordances found in music manuscripts.

A change of repertory in a monastery or cathedral was often connected with a desire to take part in the musical innovation of the time, or to implement prescribed reforms. This new music in turn attracted the faithful and pilgrims in greater numbers. Many European monasteries and cultural centres, such as the cathedrals of Santiago de Compostela in Spain and St. Andrews in Scotland, profited from the increasing flow of pilgrims.

Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris had already developed an entirely novel polyphonic repertoire, which soon attracted many admirers from throughout Europe. The English scholar known as Anonymous IV, for example, vividly describes the enormous appeal the musical innovations of Magisters Leonin and Perotin had for many of his contemporaries.

In consequence, several similar manuscripts of large parts of this repertory have come down to us. One manuscript was removed far away to St. Andrews, and was probably in part also written there. Besides many concordant pieces in its 13th fascicle are a series of unique tropes (special textual and melodic amplifications) that did not find their way into the younger, continental manuscripts influenced by Notre Dame. Our programme contains three-part tropes from this group of unica.

Another widely disseminated layer of tradition consists of Kyrie tropes, whose particular texts survive with their original melody as well as in polyphonic settings. We also find these in St. Andrews, as well as in St. Martial de Limoges, Santiago de Compostela and Notre-Dame de Paris.

Another genre, the verse compositions that were newly developed in Aquitaine in the 11th and 12th centuries, turn up again in French and South German manuscripts. A famous example, "Veri solis radius", has been chosen for the title of this concert.

The present programme demonstrates the manifold relationships between European cultural centres, especially the flood of music exchange - even over great distances - and the mutations that the music underwent in the process.

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1. Vexilla regis prodeunt

Processional Hymn ~ Italy, Biblioteca comunale Auguste, Perugia, Ms 2793, 13th Century

Vexilla regis prodeunt, fulget crucis mysterium, quo carne carnis conditor susensus est patibulo.	The King's flags advance: the mystery of the cross shine in that the life suffered death and with its death. He gave us life.	Des Königs Fahnen wehen voran, es leuchtet auf das geheimnisvolle Kreuz, an dessen Balken der Schöpfer allen Fleisches in seinem Fleische hing.
Quae vulnerata lanceae mucrone diro, criminum ut nos lavaret cordibus, manavit unda et sanguine.	Of the wounded side for the cruel iron of the lance, to wash our stains, flowed water and blood.	Aus ihm, verwundet durch die schreckliche Spitze der Lanze, floß Blut und Wasser, damit er unsere Herzen von Sünden reinwasche.
Impleta sunt quae concinit David fidi carmine, dicendo nationibus: Regnabit a ligno Deus.	The faithful oracles of David were fulfilled then, when he said to the nations: "God will reign from the timber".	In Erfüllung ging, was David allen Völkern in seinem frommen Lied gesungen hatte: "Gott wird vom Kreuzesholze aus regieren".
Te fons salutis Trinitas, collaudet omnis spiritus: Quibus crucis victoriam largiris adde praemium. Amen.	Oh Trinity, source of all salvation! All soul praise you. And You, Jesus who gives us the victory through the cross, add also our prize. Amen.	Dich, Quell des Heils, Dreifaltigkeit lobt jeglicher Geist: Denen, die du mit des Kreuzes Sieg beschenkst, füg hinzu deinen Lohn. Amen.

2. Deus in adiutorium intende laborantium

Versus ~ Aquitaine, today: Bibl. Nat. Paris, lat. 1139, Early 12th Century

Deus in adjutorium intende laborantium, et doloris remedium festina in auxilium.	God, come help those in trouble, To heal the pain, come hurry and help us.	Gott, merke auf die Hilfe derer, die sich abmühen, zum Heil des Schmerzes eile zu Hilfe.
In te, Christe, credentium misericordia omnium, qui es Deus per secula in seculorum secula.	O Christ, have mercy on all who believe in You, For you are God from everlasting to everlasting in all splendour!	Christus, erbarme dich aller, die an mich glauben, der du in Ewigkeit Gott in Herrlichkeit bist.
Christus in nostra patria que vocetur nomenia ostensus est hominibus maximis mirabilius.	Christ in our homeland, which is called "nomenia", you have shown through mankind the most wonderful miracles.	Christus sei den Menschen geoffenbart in unserem Vaterland, das „nomenia“ genannt wird durch seine größten Wunder.
Ut chorus noster psallere possit et laudes dicere tibi, Christe, rex glorie, gloria tibi, Domine!	To whom our choir sings psalms and sings Your praise, Christ, King of Glory, Glory be to You, Lord!	Damit unser Chor singen und Lobsprüche sagen kann, Christus, König der Herrlichkeit, dir, oh Herr, sei Ehre.

3. Cunctipotens genitor Deus

Kyrie Trope ~ Aquitaine, today: Bibl. Nat. Paris, lat. 1139, Early 12th Century
Spain, Biblioteca de la Catedral Santiago de Compostella, Codex Calixtinus c. 1170

Kyrie eleyon Cunctipotens genitor deus omni creator eleyon Fons et origo boni pie lux que perhennis eleyon	All-powerful Father, God, Creator of all things, have mercy May thy compassion save us, good ruler, have mercy Font and origin of goodness,	Herr, erbarme dich. Allmächtiger Vater, Gott, Schöpfer von allem, erbarme dich. Quell und Ursprung der Güte, ewiges Licht, erbarme dich.
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Salvificet pietas tua nos bone rector eleyon	Holy one, light everlasting, have mercy	Möge deine Gnade uns erlösen, guter Herrscher, erbarme dich.
Christe eleyon	Christ, the splendor of God, strength and wisdom of the Father, have mercy	Christus, erbarme dich.
Christe Dei splendor virtus patrisque sophie eleyon	Creator of humankind, healer of those who fall, have mercy	Christus, Glanz Gottes, Kraft und Weisheit des Vaters, erbarme dich.
Plasmatis humani factor lapsis reparator eleyon	Lest thy creation be damned, kind Jesus, have mercy	Erschaffer aller menschlichen Kreatur, Heiler aller, die fehl gehen, erbarme dich.
Ne tua dampnatur Iesu factura benigne eleyon	The holy breath, the fusion and the love of both, have mercy	Daß deine Schöpfung nicht verdammt sei, gütiger Jesus, erbarme dich.
Kyrie eleyon	Advancing flame, source of life, purifying power, have mercy	Herr, erbarme dich. Heiliger Atem, Verbindung und Liebe zu beidem, erbarme dich.
Amborum sacram spiramen nexus amorque eleyon	Forgiver of sin, bestower of pardon, erase our offenses, replenish us, give us holy grace, have mercy	Fortdauernde Flamme, Quell des Lebens, reinigende Kraft, erbarme dich.
Procedens fomes vite fons purificans vis eleyon	Most gracious Spirit, have mercy	Reiniger der Schuld, bester Spender der Vergebung/Gnade, (Unsere) Schuld tilge, heilige Gnade gib uns, allmächtiger Geist, erbarme dich.
Purgator culpe venie largitor optime		
Offensas dele sancto nos munere reple		
Spiritus alme eleyon		

4. Rex virginum amator

Kyrie Trope ~ Scotland, St. Andrews, today: HAB Wolfenbüttel, Helmst. 628 (W1), 13th Century

Rex virginum amator deus, Marie decus, eleyon	King, lover of virgins, God, Mary's glory: have mercy.	König, Liebhaber der Jungfrauen, Herr, Zierde Mariens, erbarme Dich.
Christe deus de patre homo natus Maria matre, eleyon	Christ, God of the Father, born as man of the mother Mary: have mercy.	Christus, Gott vom Vater, Mensch geboren von der Mutter Maria, erbarme Dich.
O paraclite obumbrans corpus Marie, eleyon	O Paraclete, sheltering the body of Mary: have mercy.	O Beistand, den Körper Mariens umschattend, erbarme Dich.

5. Veri solis radius

Versus ~ Aquitaine, today: Bibl. Nat. Paris, lat. 3719, Early 12th Century

Veri solis radius et sol pleni luminis specular innoxius matris intrat virginis, sic Dei, non aliud, filius fit hominis.	The beam of the true sun, the sun of the full light, the intact reflection enters the womb of the Virgin. So is the Son of God - otherwise (unchanged) - but the Son of Man.	Der Strahl der wahren Sonne, die Sonne des vollen Lichtes, der unversehrte Abglanz betrifft den Leib der Jungfrau. So wird der Sohn Gottes - nicht anders (unverändert) - doch der Menschensohn.
Vermis, qui sub vespere mundi jubar exerit, ramum siccata hederae, qua se Jonas operit, non in umbra literae spem salutis ingerit. (...)	The worm, which in the evening comes out of the world as light cleans the road from the ivy with the Jonas covered. Not in the shadow of the letter (the Act) he brings the hope of salvation. (...)	Der Wurm, der am Abend der Welt als Leuchte hervorkommt reinigt den Ast von der Efeuranke mit dem sich Jonas bedeckt. Nicht im Schatten des Buchstabens (des Gesetzes) bringt er die Hoffnung auf das Heil.
Fratri primogenitus, non conformis humili Nec adesse meritus patris mensae fertili, immoratur penitus legis agro sterili. (...)	The firstborn is his low brother not equal. He does not deserve it, participate in the rich table of the Father. He dwells all on the barren field of law. (...)	Der Erstgeborene wird seinem niedrigen Bruder nicht gleich. Er hat es nicht verdient, am reichen Tisch des Vaters teilzunehmen. Er verweilt ganz auf dem unfruchtbaren Acker des Gesetzes. (...)
Unde chorus hodie plaudat manu sedula quam sinus sedula purgat lepre macula ut coheres glorie jubilat per secula.	Therefore, today is the choir with eager hand clap, the bosom of the Church purified from the stigma of leprosy, so that they as co-heiress of glory jubilee forever!	Deshalb soll heute der Chor mit eifriger Hand klatschen, die der Schoß der Kirche von dem Makel des Aussatzes reinigt, damit sie als Miterbin der Herrlichkeit in Ewigkeit jubiliere!

6. Stirps Iesse, Vers Virgo Dei genitrix

Responsorium ~ England, Worcester, Cathedral Chapter Library, F. 160, 13th Century
France, today: Florenz Biblioteca Laurenziana, Pluteo 29.1, 13th Century

Stirps Iesse virgam produxit
virga et florem
et super hunc florem
requiescit spiritus almus.

Virgo dei genitrix
virga est flos filius eius.

The stock of Jesse has brought
forth a rod, and the rod flowers:
and upon this flower rests
the saving grace of the Spirit.

The Virgin Mother of God is the rod,
the flower her Son.

Die Wurzel Jesse brachte einen Zweig hervor,
der Zweig (auch) eine Blüte
und über dieser Blüte
ruht der segenspendende Geist.

Die Jungfrau und Mutter Gottes
ist der Zweig und die Blüte ihr Sohn.

7. Patris ingeniti filius

Benedicamus Domino Versus

Aquitaine, today: British Library London, add. 36881, Mid 12th Century
South Germany, today: British Library London, add. 27630, 2nd Half of 14th Century

Patris ingeniti filius
Veniet ethereis sedibus.
Secrete fit rei nuncius
Puelle gabriel angelus.
Dicens o domina
Aveto maria.
Cuius sum vernula
Defera nuncia.

Ecce concipies utero
Filium paries domino.
Sedebit davidis solio
Regnabit sine termino.
His verbis credula
Coniugis nescia
Superna gratia
Virgo fit gravida.

Partus est hodie terminus
Quo mundi creator dominus.
Humanis se subdidit legibus
Factus est hominis filius

Servus cum domino
Mixtus inmerito.
Cui perpetuo
Benedicamus domino.

The son of the unbegotten Father
Comes from the heavenly seat.
The messenger of this mysterious event
Is the angel Gabriel,
who says to the virgin:
Oh Lady, Hail to you Mary,
Whose lowliest slave I am,
I bring tidings.

For behold, in your womb
You will conceive and bear a son
He will sit on the throne of David
And will reign, but without end.
Believing these words,
Without a husband,
Through grace most high,
The virgin becomes heavy with child.

Today the culmination is born,
Through which the creator of the world,
the Lord,
Who submits to the law of man,

Becomes the Son of man,
And servant with the Lord,
Just in merit, Through eternity,
Praise the Lord.

Der Sohn des ungezeugten Vaters
wird von den himmlischen Thronen kommen.
Bote der geheimen Angelegenheit
wird für das Mädchen (die junge Frau)
der Engel Gabriel.
Er sagt: "O, Herrin Maria, sei gegrüßt,
deren unbedeutender Diener ich bin,
der die Botschaft überbringt.

Siehe, du wirst in deinem Leib
empfangen und dem Herrn einen Sohn gebären.
Er wird auf Davids Thron sitzen
und ohne Ende regieren.
Sie glaubte diesen Worten
und, ohne einen Mann zu erkennen,
wird durch göttliche Gnade
die Jungfrau voll Freude.

Heute ist der Endpunkt, die Niederkunft
(gekommen), an dem der Schöpfer der Welt,
der Herr, sich den menschlichen Gesetzen
unterworfen hat und Sohn des Menschen
(Menschensohn) geworden ist.
Unverdient vermischt sich der Diener
mit dem Herrn.
Ihm, dem Herrn,
mögen wir immer lobsing.

8. In exitu Israel de Aegypto

Psalm recitation in tonus peregrinus to Psalm 113

England, Alphonso Psalter, British Library London, Additional 24686, 13th Century

- 1 In exitu Israel de Aegypto
* domus Jacob de populo barbaro
- 2 Factus est Iudas sanctificatio eius
* Israel potestas eius
- 3 Mare vidit et fugit
* Iordanis conversus est retrorsum
- 4 Montes exsultaverunt sicut arietes
* et colles sicut agni ovium.
- 5 Quid est tibi mare quod fugisti
* et tu Iordanis quia conversus
es retrorsum

1. When Israel went out of Egypt, the house of Jacob from a barbarous people:
2. Judea made his sanctuary, Israel his dominion.
3. The sea saw and fled: Jordan was turned back.
4. The mountains skipped like rams, and the hills like the lambs of the flock.
5. What ailed thee, O thou sea, that thou didst flee: and thou, O Jordan, that thou wast turned back?

1. Als Israel aus Ägypten zog,
das Haus Jakob aus dem Volk fremder Sprache,
2. da wurde Juda sein Heiligtum,
Israel sein Herrschaftsgebiet.
3. Das Meer sah es und floh,
der Jordan wandte sich zurück;
4. die Berge hüpfen wie Widder,
die Hügel wie junge Schafe.
5. Was kam dich an, o Meer,
daß du geflohen bist, du Jordan,
daß du dich zurückwandtest,

- 6 Montes exsultasti sicut arietes
* et colles sicut agni ovium
- 7 A facie Domini mota est terra
* a facie Dei Iacob
- 8 qui convertit petram in stagna aquarum
* et rupem in fontes aquarum
- 9 Non nobis Domine non nobis
* sed nomini tuo da gloriam
- 10 propter misericordiam tuam et
veritatem tuam * nequando dicant gentes
ubi est Deus eorum (...)
- 23 adjiciat Dominus super vos
* super vos et super filios vestros
- 24 benedicti vos a Domino
* qui fecit caelum et terram
- 25 caelum caeli Domino
* terram autem dedit
filii hominum
- 26 non mortui laudabunt te Domine
* neque omnes qui descendant
in infernum
- 27 sed nos qui vivimus
benedicimus Domino
* ex hoc nunc et usque in saeculum
6. Ye mountains, that ye skipped like rams,
and ye hills, like lambs of the flock?
7. At the presence of the Lord the earth
was moved, at the presence of the God of
Jacob:
8. Who turned the rock into pools of water,
and the stony hill into fountains of waters.
9. Not to us, O Lord, not to us;
but to thy name give glory.
10. For thy mercy, and for thy truth's sake:
lest the gentiles should say:
Where is their God?
23. May the Lord add blessings upon you:
upon you, and upon your children.
24. Blessed be you of the Lord, who made
heaven and earth.
25. The heaven of heaven is the Lord's:
but the earth he has given
to the children of men.
26. The dead shall not praise thee, O Lord:
nor any of them that go
down to hell.
27. But we that live
bless the Lord:
from this time now and for ever.
6. ihr Berge, daß ihr hüpfet wie Widder,
ihr Hügel wie junge Schafe?
7. Erde, erbebe vor dem Angesicht des
Herrschers, vor dem Angesicht des Gottes
Jakobs,
8. der den Fels verwandelte in einen Wasserteich,
den Kieselfels in einen Wasserquelle!
9. Nicht uns, o Herr, nicht uns,
sondern deinem Namen gib Ehre, um deiner
Gnade und Treue oder Wahrheit willen!
10. Warum sollen die Heiden sagen:
„Wo ist denn ihr Gott?“
(...)
23. Der Herr mehre euch,
euch und eure Kinder!
24. Gesegnet seid ihr von dem Herrn,
der Himmel und Erde gemacht hat.
25. Der Himmel ist der Himmel des Herrn;
aber die Erde hat er
den Menschenkindern gegeben.
26. Die Toten rühmen den Herrn nicht,
keiner, der zum Schweigen
hinabfährt.
27. Wir aber wollen den Herrn preisen
von nun an
bis in Ewigkeit.

9. Laudes Deo

Sanctus Trope ~ Scotland, St. Andrews, today: HAB Wolfenbüttel, Helmst. 628 (W1), 13th Century

Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus
Dominus Deus Sabaoth.
Laudes Deo, ore pio, corde sereno
carmine melos tinnulo.

Pleni sunt celi et terra gloria tua.
In iubilo cum cantico ad alta resonet
vox cum organo.

Hosanna in excelsis.
Alpha et O puro carmine necne dicitur.
Benedictus qui venit in nomine Domini.

Patri almo genito quoque flamini sancto.
Hosanna in excelsis.
Trino Deo omnes proclamant.

Holy, holy, holy,
Lord, God of power and might,
Praise to God with a faithful mouth
and a cheerful heart, O assembled choir,
let ringing melody

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Let voice with organum in joy with song
on high resound together

Hosanna in the highest.
To Alpha et Omega with pure song, sing
Blessed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord.

To the father kind and the son
and the holy spirit too
Hosanna in the highest.
To God triune all cry out.

Heilig, Heilig, Heilig, Herr Gott Sabaoth.
Geben wir Gott mit frommen
und heiteren Herzen
Lobsprüche mit einer klingenden Melodie.

Himmel und Erde sind erfüllt von Deiner
Herrlichkeit. Jubelnd soll die Stimme mit Gesang
und einem Organum in der Höhe widerhallen.

Hosanna in den Höhen
Dem Alpha und Omega singe in einem reinen
Lied. Gepriesen sei, der kommt
im Namen des Herrn.

Dem erhabenen Vater, auch dem Sohn
und dem heiligen Geiste.
Hosanna in den Höhen,
rufen alle dem dreifältigen Gott zu.

10. Ad superni regis decus / Noster cetus

Benedicamus Domino Trope

Spain, Biblioteca de la Catedral, Santiago de Compostella, Codex Calixtinus c. 1170
Aquitaine, today: Bibl. Nat. Paris, lat. 1139, Early 12th Century

Ad superni regis decus

Ad superni regis decus,
qui continent omnia

To the jewel of the supernal king who
contains all things,

Lasst uns zur Ehre des höchsten Königs,
der alles zusammenhält,

celebremus leti tua,
Iacobe, sollempnia.

Secus litus galilee
contempsisti propria.
Sequens Christum predicasti
ipsius imperia.

Tu petisti iuxta Christum
tunc sedere nescius,
sed nunc sedes in cohorte
duodena alcius.

Prothomartir duodenus
fuisti in patria.
Primam sedem duodenam
possides in gloria.

Fac nos ergo interesse
polo absque termino.
Ut mens nostra regi regum
benedicat domino.

Noster cetus psallat letus
voce simul consona,
Jesu Christi gloriosa
recolens natalia.

Qui de caelis condescendens
in virginis uterum,
in eadem carne sumpta
visitavit saeculum

Felix puer, cuius mater
incorrupta parere
et post partum virgo parens
meruit existere.

Hic est enim germen Adae
qui venit redimere
et ad caeli sedem, unde
voluit, reducere.

Ad ipsius ergo laudes
omnis nostra concio
Exsultando regi regum
benedicat domino!

we happily celebrate
your feast, James.

From the Galilean
shore you scorned worldly things.
Following Christ, you foretold
his kingdom.

Without understanding him,
you sought to be near Christ,
but now you sit in the cohort
of twelve on high.

You were the first martyr
of the apostles in your land.
You hold in glory the first seat
of the twelve.

Lift us, therefore,
to the eternal heavens,
that our mind may bless
the king of kings, the lord.

Noster cetus

Let our congregation sing
With consonant voices
Jesus Christ's glorious
Day of birth.

Descending from heaven
Into a Virgin's womb
Taking flesh in her
He visited this world.

Happy child, whose mother
Having incorruptibly given birth
And afterwards remained a virgin
Was thought worthy of this.

For he is the Son of God
Who came to redeem the world
He came down to return the world
To its heavenly home.

Therefore to his praise
Let our entire congregation
Exult the King of Kings
Bless the Lord.

froh dein Fest feiern,
Jakobus!

Am Ufer des (Sees) von Galiläa
hast du das Deine verachtet,
bist Christus gefolgt
und hast sein Reich verkündet.

Unwissend hast du verlangt,
einst bei Christus zu thronen (zu sitzen).
Nun aber sitzt du noch höher
in der Schar der Zwölf.

Als einer der Zwölf warst du der
erste Märtyrer (Blutzeuge) in deiner Heimat.
Von den zwölf Sitzen besitzt du
nun den ersten Platz in Herrlichkeit.

Mach, dass auch wir im Himmel
ohne Ende dabei sind,
damit unsere Seele
den König der Könige, den Herrn, preise!

Froh soll unsere Versammlung
zugleich mit klangvoller Stimme singen,
wenn sie die ruhmreiche Geburt
Jesu Christi begeht.

Er, der vom Himmel herabstieg
in den Bauch der Jungfrau,
hat in eben diesem angenommenen Fleisch
die Welt besucht.

Glücklicher Knabe, dessen Mutter
unversehrt gebären
und nach der Geburt Jungfrau und Mutter
sein durfte.

Dieser ist nämlich der Sproß Adams,
der gekommen ist, (uns) zu erlösen
und in den Sitz des Himmels zurückzuführen,
von wo er (kommen) wollte.

Zu seinem Lob möge
unsere ganze Versammlung
dem König der Könige frohlockend
den Herrn preisen!

Agnus Dei, lux lucis verbumque
patris virtusque perhennis,
qui tollis peccata mundi,
miserere nobis.

Agnus Dei, verus sanctorum splendor
nosterque redemptor,
qui tollis peccata mundi,
miserere nobis.

Agnus Dei, nostra salus pax
vera deus altissima virtus,
dona nobis pacem.

Lamb of God, you take away
the sins of the world,
Light from light and Word of the Father
and everlasting Power, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away
the sins of the world,
True splendor of the saints
and our Redeemer, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away
the sins of the world,
Our salvation, true peace,
supreme virtue, O God, grant us peace.

Lamm Gottes, Licht des Lichthes,
Wort des Vaters, ewige Kraft,
das du trägst die Sünden der Welt,
erbarme dich unser.

Lamm Gottes, wahrer Glanz
der Heiligen und unser Erlöser,
das du trägst die Sünden
der Welt, erbarme dich unser.

Lamm Gottes, unser Heil,
wahrer Friede,
Gott, höchste Kraft!
Gib uns Frieden.

12. Stirps Jesse

Benedicamus Domino Trope ~ Aquitaine, today: Bibl. Nat. Paris, lat. 1139, Early 12th Century

Stirps Jesse florigeram
germinavit virgulam
et in flore spiritus
quiescit paraclitus.

Fructum profert virgula
per quem vivunt saecula,
stirpis ex Davidiae
virga dicta mystice.

Quae sic, quae sic floruit
et quae florem protulit?
Virga Jesse virgo est,
flos filius eius est.

Pater, o huic flori
praeter morem edito
canunt chori
sanctorum et debito.

Laus et iubilatio,
potestas cum imperio
sit sine termino
caelorum Domino

Benedicamus Domino

The root Jesse has produced
a flowering branch,
and on the flower
rests of assistance (Holy Spirit)

The branch produces a fruit,
through the centuries to live,
according to the branch of the root of
David he was named mystical (occult).

Who is blossoming,
who has brought the flower?
The branch Jesse is the Virgin,
the bloom is her son.

Father, this bloom
that has been brought contrary to the usual
custom of singing the choirs of angels, and
rightly so!

Praise and jubilation,
with power rule
be to the Lord of the heavens
without end.

Let us bless the Lord.

Der Sproß Jesse hat einen
blühenden Zweig hervorgebracht,
und auf der Blüte
ruht der Beistand (Hl. Geist)

Der Zweig bringt eine Frucht hervor,
durch die die Jahrhunderte leben,
nach dem Zweig des Sprosses Davids
wurde er mystisch (geheimnisvoll) benannt.

Wer ist so erblüht,
wer hat die Blüte hervorgebracht?
Der Zweig Jesse ist die Jungfrau,
die Blüte ist ihr Sohn.

Vater, dieser Blüte, die entgegen dem üblichen
Brauch hervorgebracht worden ist,
sing die Chöre der Engel,
und das mit Recht!

Lob und Jubel,
Macht mit Herrschaft
sei ohne Ende
dem Herrn der Himmel.

Laßt uns den Herrn preisen.

13. Deus in adiutorium intende laborantium

Motet ~ France, today: UB Bamberg, lit. 115, Late 13th Century

Deus in adjutorium
intende laborantium,
et doloris remedium
festina in auxilium.

In te, Christe, creditum
misericordia omnium,
qui es Deus per secula
in seculorum secula.

Christus in nostra patria
que vocetur nomenia
ostensus est hominibus
maximis mirabilis.

Ut chorus noster psallere
possit et laudes dicere
tibi, Christe, rex glorie,
gloria tibi, Domine!

God, come help
those in trouble,
To heal the pain,
come hurry and help us.

O Christ, have mercy
on all who believe in You,
For you are God from everlasting to
everlasting in all splendour!

Christ in our homeland,
which is called "nomenia", you have
shown through mankind the most
wonderful miracles.

To whom our choir sings psalms
and sings Your praise,
Christ, King of Glory,
Glory be to You, Lord!

Gott, merke auf die Hilfe derer,
die sich abmühen,
zum Heil des Schmerzes
eile zu Hilfe.

Christus, erbarme dich aller,
die an mich glauben,
der du in Ewigkeit
Gott in Herrlichkeit bist.

Christus sei den Menschen geoffenbart
in unserem Vaterland,
das „nomenia“ genannt wird
durch seine größten Wunder.

Damit unser Chor singen
und Lobsprüche sagen kann,
Christus, König der Herrlichkeit,
dir, oh Herr, sei Ehre.

VOX NOSTRA is a vocal ensemble based in Berlin, Germany, founded in 1999 by Burkard Wehner. Specialized in the performance of medieval music the main focus of the group is the interpretation of the earliest surviving compositions from the cultural centers of Europe. Sung from manuscripts originating in monasteries, cathedrals, and courts, this music is an acoustical insight into the archaic sound world of the Middle Ages.

The members of VOX NOSTRA have pursued extensive scholarship in the fields of musicology, medieval paleography, and theology. The music of VOX NOSTRA combines expressive musicality and academic curiosity. The repertoire includes Gregorian and pre-Gregorian chant and the specific liturgical music of the different medieval orders like Cistercians, Dominicans, Carthusians and Franciscans dating from the 10th to the 14th century. Furthermore VOX NOSTRA sings early 12th century polyphonic compositions from St. Martial (Aquitaine), compositions from the famous cathedral of Notre-Dame de Paris (starting from 1200), Italian laude of the 13th century, and the richly polyphonic compositions of the Renaissance.

In addition to Early Music, Vox Nostra interprets contemporary music, devised and composed to experimenting with vocal color and microintervals. In both old and contemporary music performances VOX NOSTRA regularly collaborates with lighting designers, and other visual artists, in order to enrich the visual and theatrical aspects of the performance.

A special feature of the ensemble is the practice of singing scores researched from original manuscripts. The musical interpretation made by VOX NOSTRA has specific consequences on the old forms of notation, such as neumatic notation of the chorale, the modal notation of the Notre-Dame organa, and mensural notation. Which each employ a great number of symbols indicating that melodic ornamentation that should be sung. In order to give these features the emphasis they deserve, ensemble VOX NOSTRA favors a slow, flowing style of performance in an appropriately restrained tempo. The vocal sound which results is rich in overtones, and fills the entire space; it allows the archaic and pure intervals of this music to be fully appreciated, and ensures that the complex weaving of the individual voices is clearly audible. In addition to the original manuscripts, research and this interpretation of the music from the 12th-16th centuries also provides new information regarding tempo, ornamentation and the practice of solo performance of the chants.

The music of VOX NOSTRA is best suited to a large space with a good acoustic and hence no amplification is required. Churches are of course suitable for the liturgically structured programs, yet more modern settings like galleries, or industrial sites also provide a provocative backdrop for the music. The unique acoustical situation of each concert location influences concert presentations, as well as the choreography of singers, hence time in each venue to work how the singers can move between various points in the room to integrate the acoustic properties of each site into the score.

Amy Green

Born in Alamo, California, U.S.A. 2001 Early Music Voice Degree, Staatliche Hochschule für Musik, Trossingen. 2001 Private study of medieval harp, with Judy Kadar, and, Arabic Music, with Farhan Sabbagh. Solo and ensemble singer in diverse contexts including: Member of ensembles Green/Sudmann (Contemporary Art Song), Elysium (Vocal ensemble. Recorded for Decca), Kusskuss (Early Baroque music), Teatro de Liezenbourg (Baroque Opera. Played lead Role of Procris in modern premier of Giovanni Bononcini's opera Cefalo e Procris). Collaboration with Sarband, Ensemble Penalosa, Ordo Virtutum, Alta Musica, Friedrich Lichtenstein (Boccia Saal, Carmen Miranda Revue Pavillion, Park).

Ellen Hünigen

Ellen Hünigen studied composition and piano at the Music Conservatory Hanns Eisler Berlin from 1985 till 1989. Contemporary music courses (International Bartok Seminar in Szombathely, Hungary, 1989 composition prize at the Geraer Ferienkurse für zeitgenössische Musik. From 1989 to 1991 advanced studies in composition with Friedrich Goldmann at the Akademie der Künste in Berlin. Diverse composition stipendia. Since 1990, teacher for music theory and piano at various private and public schools as well as at the Music Conservatory Hanns Eisler. Her own music has been performed by various ensembles in Germany, Switzerland, Italy and USA. Member of the vocal ensemble Musikalischer Religionsdialog which aims to connect and to interweave music of Jewish, Catholic, Orthodox Christian, Byzantine and Muslim traditions. Since 2008 working on a dissertation on musical notation in Aquitanian music manuscripts of the 12th century.

Susanne Wilsdorf

Study of musicology in Berlin. Awarded with a stipendium for study in Basel with Wulf Arlt. Study of voice at the Akademie für Alte Musik/Hochschule Bremen with Harry van der Kamp. Ensemble Singer: Collegium Vocale Gent, Las Huelgas Ensemble, Vocalconsort Berlin, Musica Fiata Köln, LauttenCompagney Berlin. Collaboration with Philipp Herreweghe, Rene Jacobs, Marcus Creed, Attilio Cremonesi. Concert touring in France, Israel, Luxembourg, USA, Syria, Sweden. Participation in diverse productions of Sasha Waltz & Guests (Dido and Aeneas, Medea- Dialoge 2006/2009).

Werner Blau

Music and geography teacher in Berlin. Pedagogical and performance degree in piano under Thea Boue-Noack (Mainz). Private vocal instruction with Bettina Spreitz-Rundfeldt, Ralph Eschrig, Evelyn Tubb und Stephen Varcoe (Dartington Summer school). Solo and ensemble bass (focus Early Music). Pianist / accompanist of Lied repertoire of the 19th and 20th century.

Burkard Wehner - Founder and music director of the ensemble VOX NOSTRA

Study of Medieval and Renaissance Vocal Music and musicology at the Brabant Conservatory in Tilburg, Holland. International master classes with Andrea von Ramm, Jill Feldman, Marcel Peres and Pedro Memelsdorff. Soloist at many international festivals in Poland, Holland, Austria, France, and Germany. Extensive musicological activity in the research of medieval source material. Teaches workshops and seminars on the interpretation and performance practice of medieval vocal music. Member of the advisory board for the exhibition 'The Council of Constance 1414-1418' in Constance from April to September 2014.