



Guillaume Dufay

Sacred music from Bologna Q15

The Clerks' Group

directed by Edward Wickham

"It is an absorbing and revealing collection, and everything is delivered with tonal beauty and scholarly stylishness."

Andrew Clements, Early Music

"The Clerks' Group are now so familiar with this sort of repertoire that their technical assurance and interpretative confidence are unparalleled."

D. James Ross, Early Music Review

"unexpectedly dazzling...The Clerks' Group sing beautifully"

The Sunday Times 27 October 2002

Signum Records is delighted to introduce the third disc recorded by The Clerks' Group for the label. The series has extended the ensemble's repertoire into the medieval period and culminates with a selection of works by Guillaume Dufay, found in one of the great anthologies of 15th century music: the manuscript Bologna, Civico Museo Bibliografico Musicale, MS Q15 (or "Q15" as it is known by its friends).

The Q15 manuscript contains examples of almost every conceivable musical genre of the period by a vast array of composers. The Clerks' Group has chosen to perform works by a single composer, but still the variety of forms and styles on offer is bewildering. Guillaume Dufay was a composer who witnessed and contributed to most of the revolutionary changes to occur in music composition in the 15th century. The album includes some of the earlier works so often neglected from Dufay's repertoire, and goes on to explore compositions that demonstrate this revolutionary genius. Some compositional techniques celebrated by The Clerks' Group's performance include the playful exchange of Dufay's song-like melodies between the vocal lines; and the use of mensural canon, where the same melody is sung by all voices but at slightly different speeds. These are just a few examples of the radical nature of Dufay's music as demonstrated on this recording.

Having made its professional London debut in 1992, The Clerks' Group has received widespread critical acclaim for its performances of often-neglected Renaissance repertoire. In 1997 the group was awarded Gramophone magazine's Early Music Award, having been nominated for the previous two years.

We hope that you will find enjoyment in the immense diversity that The Clerks' Group communicates, both within the music and its performance. The ensemble's refreshing approach displays sincere empathy and passion for the repertoire they choose to record.



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| 1 | <i>Vasilissa, ergo gaude</i> | [2:47] |
| 2 | <i>Kyrie Fons bonitatis</i> | [6:58] |
| 3 | <i>O beate Sebastiane</i> | [2:59] |
| 4 | <i>Gloria (Bol. Q15 no. 107)</i> | [4:47] |
| 5 | <i>O gemma, lux et speculum</i> | [4:37] |
| 6 | <i>Credo (Bol. Q15 no. 108)</i> | [6:29] |
| 7 | <i>Supremum est mortalibus</i> | [6:25] |
| 8 | <i>Sanctus & Benedictus
(Bol. Q15 no. 104)</i> | [6:21] |
| 9 | <i>Inclita stella maris</i> | [4:07] |
| 10 | <i>Agnus Dei (Bol. Q15 no. 105)</i> | [3:26] |
| 11 | <i>Gloria "Spiritus et alme"</i> | [6:03] |
| 12 | <i>O sancte Sebastiane</i> | [5:01] |
| Total running time: | | [60:00] |

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