



Musica Spei

presents

Voices from the Low Countries

Masses and motets from the golden age of Franco-Flemish music.

Sunday, June 3rd, 2007 at 4:00 pm, St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church, Auburn

Friday, June 8th at 7:30 pm, St. Michael's Episcopal Church, Geneseo

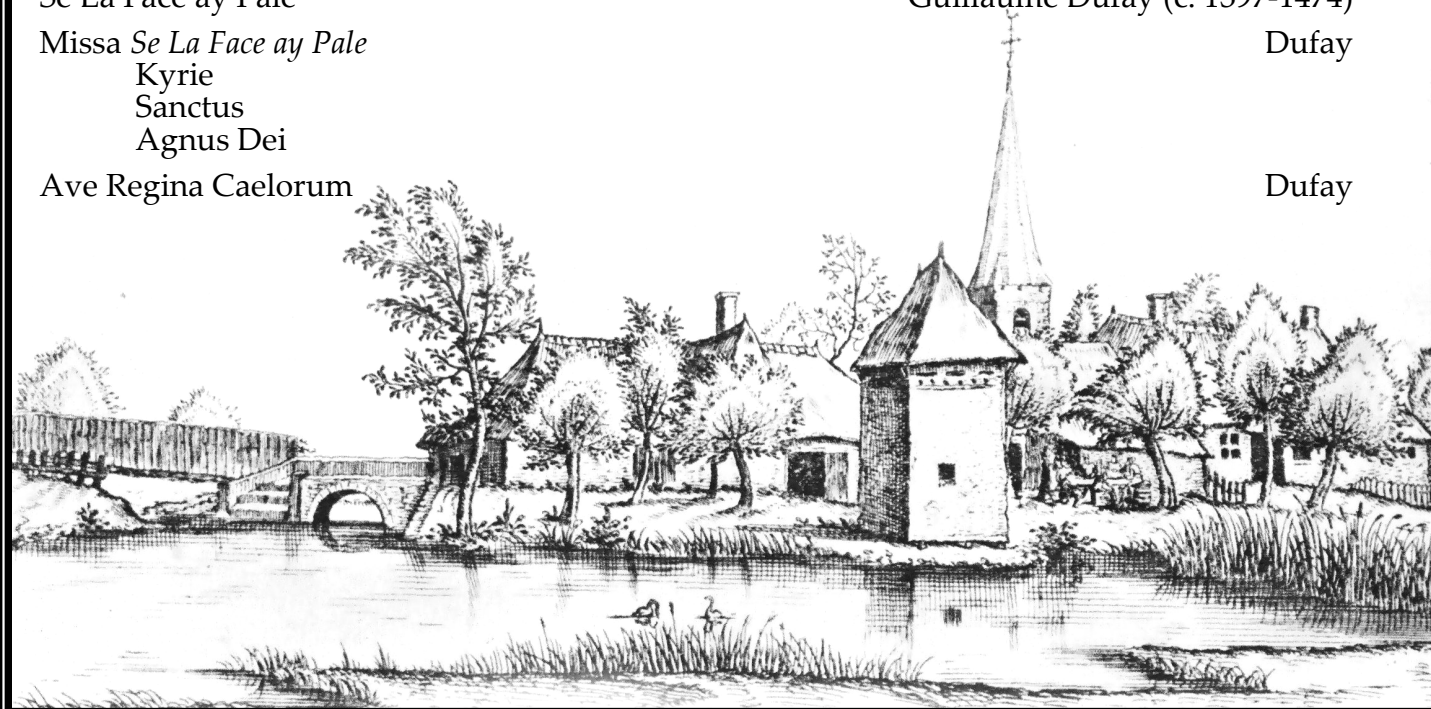
Saturday, June 9th at 8:00 pm, St. Anne Church, Rochester

PROGRAM

Musica Dei Donum	Jacobus Vaet (1529-1567)
Ave Regina Caelorum	Anonymous (13 th century)
Veni Creator Spiritus	Gilles Binchois (c. 1400-1460)
Missa <i>Cantorum</i>	Orlande de Lassus (1532-1494)
Kyrie	
Gloria	
Agnus Dei	
Caligaverunt Oculi Mei	Lassus
Ave Maria	Eustache Du Caurroy (1549-1609)

Intermission

Jubilate Deo	Lassus
Se La Face ay Pale	Guillaume Dufay (c. 1397-1474)
Missa <i>Se La Face ay Pale</i>	Dufay
Kyrie	
Sanctus	
Agnus Dei	
Ave Regina Caelorum	Dufay



PROGRAM NOTES

The concert centers on portions of two masses, the *Missa Se la face ay pale* of Dufay, and the *Missa Cantorum* (Singers' Mass) by Lassus. The program also features motets by these composers as well as du Caurroy and Vaet. All these composers were born in, or spent a significant portion of their adult lives in the "low countries" (modern-day Belgium, the Netherlands, and northwestern France). At the start of the Renaissance in Europe, this region was a rich cultural center and produced some of that period's finest musicians, whose travels and writings influenced the development of choral music throughout Europe.

Dufay, acknowledged by his contemporaries as the finest composer of the 15th century, often utilized rhythmic complexity in his music. His popular ballad "Se la face ay pale" (c. 1435) demonstrates this, with the 3 parts interweaving and interrupting each other constantly. About 20 years later, he reused the middle line of his own ballad as the basis for the *Missa Se la face ay pale*. Here, however, the ballad melody is significantly lengthened in time, to the point where it is almost unrecognizable as the same tune, while the outer parts contain the rhythmic complexity so characteristic of this master's work.

Almost a century later another Franco-Flemish composer, Lassus, enjoyed similar admiration by his peers throughout Europe. Working in the 16th century, a time of rapid musical development, his compositions have a much richer harmonic and melodic structure, but are rhythmically simpler, when compared with the works of the earlier master. His 4-part *Missa Cantorum* (Singers' Mass) is challenging in its unexpected harmonic progressions, and is rarely performed. However, the chromatic richness and dense harmonies make this piece truly a "singers' delight."

TEXTS AND TRANSLATIONS

Musica Dei Donum

Vaet

Musica, Dei donum optimi, trahit homines, trahit Deos.
Musica truces mollit animos, tristesque mentes erigit.
Musica vel ipsas arbores et horridas moveat feras.

Music, gift of the highest God, draws men, draws gods.
Music calms the angry spirits and raises sad minds.
Music moves even the very trees and wild beasts.

Ave Regina Caelorum

Anonymous

Ave Regina caelorum.
Ave domina angelorum.
Salve, radix sancta, ex qua mundo lux est orta.

Hail, Queen of the heavens.
Hail, ruler of the angels.
Hail, holy root, from whom light has shone to the world.

Gaude gloriosa, super omnes speciosa,
Vale, valde decora,
et pro nobis semper Christum exora.

Hail, most glorious, beautiful above all,
Farewell, O most comely,
And pray always to Christ for us.

Veni Creator Spiritus

Binchois

Veni, Creator Spiritus,
mentes tuorum visita.
Imple superna gratia,
Que tu creasti pectora.

Come, Holy Spirit, Creator blest,
and in our souls take up Thy rest.
Come with Thy grace and heavenly aid,
To fill the hearts which Thou hast made.

Missa Cantorum

Lassus

Kyrie eleison. Christe eleison. Kyrie eleison.

Lord have mercy on us. Christ have mercy on us. Lord have mercy on us.

Gloria in excelsis Deo,
et in terra pax hominibus bonae voluntatis.
Laudamus te. Benedicimus te.
Adororamus te. Glorificamus te.
Gratias agimus tibi propter magnam gloriam tuam.

Glory be to God on high,
and in earth peace, good will towards men.
We praise thee. We bless thee.
We worship thee. We glorify thee.
We give thanks to thee for thy great glory.

Domine Deus, Rex caelestis,
Deus Pater omnipotens.
Domine Fili unigenite, Jesu Christe,
Domine Deus, Agnus Dei, Filius Patris.

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

Quoniam tu solus sanctus,
Tu solus Dominus,
Tu solus Altissimus, Jesu Christe,
cum Sancto Spiritu, in gloria Dei Patris. Amen.

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi,
miserere nobis.

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi,
miserere nobis.

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

Caligaverunt Oculi Mei

Caligaverunt oculi mei a fletu meo: quia elongatus est a me,
qui consolabatur me: Videte, omnes populi,
si est dolor similis sicut dolor meus.

O vos omnes, qui transitis per viam, attendite, et videte,
si est dolor similis sicut dolor meus.

Ave Maria

Ave Maria gratia plena, Dominus tecum:
tua gratia sit mecum.
Benedicta tu in mulieribus et benedicta sit Sancta Anna
mater tua, ex qua sine macula et peccato processisti,
Virgo Maria: ex te autem natus est
Jesus Christus filius Dei vivi.

Jubilate Deo

Jubilate Deo, omnis terra;
servite Domino in lætitia.
Intrate in conspectu eius in exsultatione,
quia Dominus ipse est Deus.

Se La Face ay Pale

Se la face ay pale, la cause est amer,
c'est la principale
Et tant m'est amer amer,
qu'en l'amer me voudroye voir
Or scet bien de voir, la belle a qui suis
que nul bien avoir sans elle ne puis.

C'est la plus reale qu'on puist regarder,
De s'amour leiale ne me puis garder,
fol sui de agarder. Ne faire devoir
d'amours recevoir fors d'elle, je cuis.
Se ne veil douloir, sans elle ne puis.

O Lord God, heavenly King,
God the Father Almighty.
O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ:
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,

Thou that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.
Thou that takest away the sins of the world, receive our prayer.
Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father,
have mercy upon us.
For thou only art holy,
thou only art the Lord,
thou only art the most high, O Christ,
with the Holy Ghost, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Lamb of God, who takest away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, who takest away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, who takest away the sins of the world,
grant us peace.

Lassus

My eyes are darkened by my tears: for He is far from me
that comforted me: See, all ye people,
if there be a sorrow like unto my sorrow.

O, all ye that pass by, behold and see
if there be a sorrow like unto my sorrow.

Du Caurroy

Hail, Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you:
may your grace be with me.
Blessed are you among women, and blessed be Saint Anne,
your mother, from whom you were born without stain or sin,
Virgin Mary: from you, moreover, was born
Jesus Christ, the son of the living God.

Lassus

Sing joyfully to God, all the earth;
serve the Lord with gladness.
Come in before his presence with exceeding great joy,
know that the Lord himself is God.

Dufay

If my face is pale, the cause is love,
that is the principal reason,
And to love is so bitter
that I want to throw myself into the sea.
Now, she knows well, the lady whom I serve,
that without her I cannot be happy.

It is the most real that one can regard:
I cannot guard myself from loyal love,
I am mad from it. Don't make a duty
of receiving love so strongly from her.
If one does not desire pain, without her, I cannot.

Missa Se la Face ay Pale

Dufay

Kyrie

(see *Kyrie* of *Missa Cantorum*)

Sanctus

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

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

Agnus Dei

(see *Agnus* of *Missa Cantorum*)

Ave Regina Caelorum

Dufay

Ave regina caelorum,
ave domina angelorum.
Miserere tui labentis Dufay,
ne peccatorum ruat
in ignem fervorum.

Hail queen of heaven,
hail mistress of the angels.
Have mercy on your erring Dufay,
lest through sin he may fall
into the fire of intoxication.

Salve radix sancta,
ex qua mundo lux est orta.
Miserere genetrix Domini
ut pateat porta coeli debili.

Hail holy root
from whom came light for the world.
Have mercy, begetter of the Lord,
that the gate of heaven may stand open to the weak.

Gaude gloriosa,
super omnes speciosa.
Miserere supplicanti Dufay
sitque in conspectu tuo
mors eius speciosa.

Rejoice, glorious virgin,
beautiful above all others.
Have mercy on your supplicating Dufay,
that in your sight
his death may be beautiful.

Vale, valde decora,
et pro nobis semper Christum exora,
in excelsis ne damnemur.
Miserere nobis et iuva,
ut in mortis hora
nostra sint corda decora.

Farewell, most comely,
and always plead with Christ for us
lest we may be damned on high.
Have mercy on us and aid us,
that in the hour of our death
our hearts may be beautiful.

Musica Spei

Jeanne Beddoe, Alexandra Bermel, Jim Blake, Lynette Blake, Mary Cowden, Jennifer Dydo,
Joe Finetti, Christopher Gold (*rehearsal conductor*), Eric Lobenstine, Richard Sauvain
Artistic Guide Emeritus: Steve Marcus

Musica Spei (Music of Hope) was formed in the summer of 1995 by a group of local singers who wanted the opportunity to explore the vast but rarely performed repertoire of sacred, unaccompanied choral masterworks of the 15th, 16th and early 17th centuries, and to share these riches with a larger audience. Many years, numerous performances and many enthusiastic audiences later, the ensemble continues to bring mostly unknown and forgotten choral works of great beauty to audiences throughout central and western New York. Musica Spei has twice been included in the "Best of Rochester" listings in City Newspaper. In 2001 it organized the first Rochester Early Music Festival, which brought together many of Rochester's early music groups for a three day period of concerts and lectures. Musica Spei also offers Renaissance Summer Sings for members of the community who enjoy singing this repertoire and sharing this joy with other singers. With a repertoire of well over 100 masses, motets and chants from both Western and Eastern traditions, the group occasionally performs music that is much earlier or later in origin. Musica Spei is unique for a Renaissance choral ensemble in that it performs without a conductor and (in the spirit of a jazz or chamber music ensemble) develops its interpretations in a collaborative fashion based on communication and interaction among the performers. For more information or to be added to our mailing list, email questions@musicaspei.org, phone 585-442-4681, or visit our website at www.musicaspei.org.

Musica Spei is currently looking for experienced singers in all voice ranges, and would also welcome the assistance of volunteers from the community to assist the group with operational activities so that it can continue to share this extraordinary but rarely performed music with as many people as possible. If interested, please contact us as noted above.