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The first concert of the *Peripheria* series

Bohemia

Sacred music of the Kingdom of Bohemia, 14th-16th centuries

This concert will launch our new series *Peripheria*. We will present one concert in this series during each of our next 4 seasons. The purpose of this series is to explore sacred music traditions from the parts of medieval Europe that were considered peripheral to the central traditions of France and Italy. Though these repertoires are consequently less well-known, they are equally rich and fascinating, and well worth discovering!

This first concert in the *Peripheria* series will present the music of the central European Kingdom that first became an important political and cultural force in the late Middle Ages. This Kingdom represents the beginnings of what is today known as the Czech Republic, but its medieval name continues to have resonance in popular culture: *Bohemia*. At its heart was the great city of Prague, whose highly developed medieval architecture reflects its status as a cultural mecca during the period.

Like all regions of Europe during the period, local saints and feasts were celebrated with songs particular to Bohemian monasteries and halls; polyphonic composition also had its own Bohemian trajectory. Colouring all aspects of Bohemian life starting in the 15th century, were the ideals and reforms of the Hussites. This had a significant impact on musical practice, as the Hussites saw both to preserve sacred singing traditions, but also to democratize access to religious practice, including the singing of sacred polyphony.

For this opening concert of our next season then, we will present a selection of the most beautiful and unique works from the medieval Bohemian repertoire of plainchant and polyphony: sequences, cantiones, tropes, and motets reflecting the growing sense of nationhood among Bohemians and the emergence and influence of the Hussite Reformation.

November 17, 2019, 5 pm
Notre-Dame-de-Bon-Secours Chapel