



Women's voices, medieval music

Direction : Rebecca Bain

First concert of the MINIATURES series

Musica cum littera

Motets of the 13th century

This concert will launch *Miniatures*, the second of our new concert series. We will present one concert in this series per season for the foreseeable future. The purpose of this series is to create intimate programs performed by a smaller number of singers (three or four instead of our usual 8 or 9) and for presentation in smaller venues.

Musica cum littera, or “music with text”, is how the motet was first described when the form was invented in the 12th century. Indeed, the term *motet* is derived from the French “mot”. The adding of newly composed poetry to one or more lines of melismatic polyphony at first was used in a liturgical setting. The poetry was in Latin and served to compliment the traditional plainchant texts. But by the 13th century, the motet had become an entirely newly-composed and independent art form as well as one of the favourite vehicles for the artistic pursuits of Parisian students. During its heyday, the early motet could contain up to four different simultaneous Latin and/or French texts on a variety of topics, from politics to courtly love.

For this program of 13th century motets, Ensemble Scholastica will perform as an *a capella* quartet. The repertoire will be a sampling of the most beautiful, playful, romantic and hilarious works from the halls (and bars!) of 13th century Paris. Our performance will include simple choreography to best make use of the space and highlight the multi-textuality of our featured musical genre.

with:

Rebecca Bain
Luce Chamberland
Marie Magistry
Angèle Trudeau