

The Renaissance Street Singers

52nd-Anniversary

Loft Concert



Loft Concert February 25, 2024

Judy Sterio

3 pm Sunday March 9, 2025

At John Hetland's home
135 West 17th Street, Loft 3B
New York, NY 10011

The Renaissance Street Singers

The Renaissance Street Singers, founded in 1973 by John Hetland, perform polyphonic sacred music from late 15th century to early 17th *a cappella* on the sidewalks and in public spaces of New York City. The motivation is love for this music and the joy of sharing it. Concerts are usually two Sunday afternoons a month, always free.

Members' names are on the back page.

Polyphonic Sacred Music

In polyphony (meaning “many sounds”), the dominant form of religious music in Europe during the Renaissance, each voice (soprano, alto, etc.) sings an interesting melodic line, with rhythmic complexity, and the voices intertwine, often imitating one another, to make a complex weaving of sound. The composers of sacred music, writing with serious intent, put their best efforts into the music. The result is beautiful music that transcends the religious tradition from which it springs.

Loft Concert

We are pleased to perform here in the Loft once a year for your enjoyment. The music, some of which has been presented in previous Loft Concerts, is chosen from our current repertoire, fifteen works that we think you'll enjoy. This year's concert contains works by twelve composers from five countries, including four settings of the *Salve Regina*, the Marian Antiphon from Pentecost (50 days after Easter) to Advent (4 Sundays before Christmas). Plus good food, and singing by *you* into the evening.

www.StreetSingers.org

Today's Concert

Salve Regina William Byrd (English; c.1540-1623)

Beatus Joannes Francisco Guerrero (Spanish; 1528-1599)

Asperges me Loyset Compère (French; c.1445-1518)
Solos by Kirsten

Ave Maria, Mater Dei William Cornysh (English; d.1523)

Agimus tibi gratias Cipriano de Rore (S. Netherlands; c.1516-1565)

Sile fragor Loyset Compère

Repleti sunt omnes Dominique Phinot
(Franco-Flemish; c.1510-c.1556)

Salve Regina Robert Hacomplaynt (English; c.1455-1528)
Solos by Joy, Emma, Dhananjay, Bob, Dick

— Intermission —

Salve Regina Pierre de La Rue (Franco-Flemish; c.1452-1518)

Da pacem, Domine Cipriano de Rore

Signor, le tue man sante Giovanni Gabrieli (Italian; c.1555-1612)

Ecce, nunc tempus acceptabile Nicolas Gombert
(S. Netherlands;c.1495-c.1560)

Clamabat autem mulier Chananaea Francisco Guerrero

Missus est Gabriel Angelus Josquin des Prez (French; c.1452-1521)

Salve Regina Jean de Ockeghem (Franco-Flemish; c.1410-1497)

Please stay for more good food and open singing!

Today's Concert

Solos are shown in italics

Salve Regina William Byrd (English; c.1540-1623)

The Salve Regina chant, dating from perhaps the eleventh century, is the most celebrated of the four "Marian antiphons" featured in worship throughout the year. Its period is from Pentecost to Advent. Among composers writing music based on chant, it is a favorite. Most such compositions use the original text almost unchanged, and many include motifs from the chant. This is the first of four we are presenting today.

Salve, Regina, mater misericordiae:
Vita, dulcedo, et spes nostra, salve.
Ad te clamamus, exsules, filii Hevae.
Ad te suspiramus, gementes et flentes
in hac lacrimarum valle.

Hail, Queen, mother of mercy:
Our life, sweetness and hope, hail.
To you we cry, exiles, Eve's children.
For you we sigh, moaning and weeping
in this vale of tears.

Eia ergo, Advocata nostra, illos tuos
misericordes oculos ad nos converte
Et Jesum, benedictum fructum ventris
tui, nobis post hoc exsilium ostende.
O clemens: O pia:
O dulcis Virgo Maria.

Therefore look! our Advocate, those your
merciful eyes, turn them toward us.
And Jesus, blessed fruit of your womb,
reveal to us after this exile.
O merciful, O holy,
O sweet Virgin Mary.

Beatus Joannes Francisco Guerrero (Spanish; 1528-1599)

As told in the Gospels of John and Mark, John the Baptist has answered his questioners, "I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord.'" So why is he baptizing if he's not the Christ, Elijah or the Prophet, they ask.

Beatus Joannes locutus est ad turbas,
dicens eis:
Ego baptizo in aqua:
medius autem vestrum stetit,
quem vos nescitis.
Ipse est qui post me venturus est,
qui ante me factus est:
cujus ego non sum dignus
ut solvam ejus corrigiam calceaminti.
Ipse baptizabit vos in Spiritu Sancto.

Blessed John spoke to the crowd,
saying to them:
I baptize you in water:
but in the midst of you stands one
whom you do not know.
He is the one to come after me,
who was made before me:
Of him I am not worthy
to untie the lace of his shoe.
He will baptize you in the Holy Spirit.

Asperges me Loyset Compère (French; c.1445-1518)

Based on a chant, the prelude to the Mass, except between Easter and Pentecost.

Solos by Kirsten

Asperges me
Domine, hyssopo
et mundabor
Lavabis me,
et super nivem dealbabor.

You will sprinkle me,
O Lord, with hyssop,
and I shall be cleansed:
you will wash me,
and I shall be whiter than snow.

Miserere mei, Deus, secundum
magnam misericordiam tuam.

Have mercy on me, O God, according to
your great mercy.

Gloria Patri, et Filio, et Spiritui Sancto.
Sicut erat in principio,
et nunc, et semper,
et in saecula saeculorum. Amen.
(Repeat first section)

Glory to the Father, Son, and holy Spirit.
As it was in the beginning,
and now, and always,
and for ages of ages. Amen

Ave Maria, Mater Dei William Cornysh (English; d.1523)

This is one of two pieces in today's concert from the Eton Choirbook, a rich collection of florid 15th-century sacred manuscripts that survived the English Reformation, when most Catholic music was destroyed.

Ave Maria, mater Dei,
regina caeli, domina mundi,
imperatrix inferni.
Miserere mei,

et totius populi Christiani
Et ne permittas nos mortaliter peccare,
sed tuam sanctissimam voluntatem
adimplere. Amen.

Hail Mary, mother of God,
queen of heaven, ruler of the world,
empress of the world below.
Have mercy on me,

and on the whole Christian people.
And permit us not to sin mortally,
but to fulfill your most
holy will. Amen

Agimus tibi gratias Cipriano de Rore (S. Netherlands; c.1516-1565)

A hymn of thanks, similar to Revelation 11:17.

Agimus tibi gratias,
rex omnipotens Deus,
pro universis beneficiis tuis:
qui vivis et regnas
per omnia saecula saeculorum.
Amen.

We give you thanks
king, omnipotent God,
for all your benefits:
who live and reign
through all ages of ages.
Amen.

Sile fragorLoyset Compère

The text here seems appropriate to our street singing, and while the Roman god of wine could relate to our rehearsals, we can't say we understand all the text.

Sile fragor ac rerum tumultus,
fuge pavor
qui pectore raucus anhelas.
Psallere nos sine
et nostros aequare modos.

Be silent, noise and bustle of the world;
fly, fear,
that breathes hoarsely in the breast.
Allow us to sing
and keep our modes in tune.

Urget amor Musae
opprimens iurgia irae,
cum ecclesia resonat
dulcore carminis nostri
et voces solidae
audientium aures demulcent.

Love of the muse impels,
suppressing the quarrels of anger,
when the church echoes
to the sweetness of our song
and our firm voices
charm the listeners' ears.

Suscipe, deitatis mater,
vocum praecordia nostra,
et nato refunde vota,
quae psallimus omnes.
Nunc fontem adire decet,
quo Bacchus insedet ipse
et discedat lympha.

Receive, Mother of the Godhead,
our hearts through our voices,
and to your Son pass on the prayers
that we all sing.
Now it is meet to approach the fountain
where Bacchus himself is enthroned,
and let water depart.

**Repleti sunt omnesDominique Phinot
(Franco-Flemish; c.1510-c.1556)**

Acts 2 describes an event on the Jewish Shavuot, or Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit appears as tongues of fire on the Disciples' heads, and they "speak in tongues."

Repleti sunt omnes Spiritu sancto,
et coeperunt loqui,
prout Spiritus Sanctus
dabat eloqui illis,
et convenit multitudo dicentium:
Alleluya.

All were filled with the Holy Spirit,
and they began to speak,
just as the Holy Spirit
gave them utterance,
and a multitude gathered, proclaiming:
Alleluia.

Salve Regina Robert Hacomplaynt (English; c.1455-1528)

From the Eton Choirbook. The customary text plus tropes, added text and music in between. Tropeing was common well before the 15th century. Tropes here are indicated in square brackets [].

Solos by Joy, Emma, Dhananjay, Bob, Dick

<i>Salve, Regina, mater misericordiae:</i>	<i>Hail, Queen, mother of mercy:</i>
<i>Vita, dulcedo, et spes nostra, salve.</i>	<i>Life, sweetness and our hope, hail.</i>
<i>Ad te clamamus, exsules, filii Hevae.</i>	<i>To you we cry, exiles, Eve's children.</i>
<i>Ad te suspiramus, gementes et flentes in hac lacrimarum valle.</i>	<i>For you we sigh, moaning and weeping in this vale of tears.</i>
<i>Eia ergo, Advocata nostra, illos tuos misericordes oculos ad nos converte.</i>	<i>Therefore look! our Advocate, those your merciful eyes, turn them toward us.</i>
<i>Et Jesum, benedictum fructum ventris tui, nobis post hoc exsilium ostende.</i>	<i>And Jesus, blessed fruit of your womb, reveal to us after this exile.</i>
<i>[Virgo mater ecclesiae, Aeterna porta gloriae, Esto nobis refugium Apud patrem et filium]</i>	<i>[Virgin mother of the church, Eternal gateway to glory, Be for us a refuge With the father and the son.]</i>
<i>O clemens,</i>	<i>O merciful one,</i>
<i>[Virgo clemens virgo pia Virgo dulcis o Maria) Exaudi preces omnium. Ad te pie clamantium].</i>	<i>[Merciful virgin, holy virgin, Sweet virgin, O Mary, Hear the prayers of all Who cry piously to you.]</i>
<i>O pia,</i>	<i>O holy one,</i>
<i>[Dele culpas miserorum, Terge sordes peccatorum, Dona nobis beatorum Vitam tuis precibus.]</i>	<i>[Erase the sins of the wretched, Wipe away sinners' filth, Give us the blessed ones' Life with your prayers.]</i>
<i>O dulcis Maria, Salve.</i>	<i>O sweet Mary, Hail.</i>

— **Intermission** —

Second Half

Salve Regina Pierre de La Rue (Franco-Flemish; c.1452-1518)

A very different treatment of the beloved antiphon.

Salve, Regina misericordiae:
Vita, dulcedo, et spes nostra, salve.
Ad te clamamus, exsules, filii Hevae.
Ad te suspiramus, gementes et flentes
in hac lacrimarum valle.
Eia ergo, Advocata nostra, illos tuos
misericordes oculos ad nos converte.

Hail, Queen of mercy:
Our life, sweetness and hope, hail.
To you we cry, exiles, Eve's children.
For you we sigh, moaning and weeping
in this vale of tears.
Therefore look! our Advocate, those your
merciful eyes, turn them toward us.

Et Jesum, benedictum fructum ventris
tui, nobis post hoc exsilium ostende.
O clemens: O pia:
O dulcis Maria.

And Jesus, blessed fruit of your womb,
reveal to us after this exile.
O merciful, O holy,
O sweet Mary.

Da pacem, Domine Cipriano de Rore

This text is from the English Book of Common Prayer, first published in 1549. I don't know how it came to be said in Latin. But it's certainly relevant now

Da pacem Domine,
in diebus nostris:
quia non est alius
qui pugnet pro nobis
nisi tu Deus noster.

Grant peace, O Lord,
in our time:
for there is no other
who would fight for us
but you, our God.



Christopher St. for Make Music NY June 21, 2024

Jill Rosenbloom

Signor, le tue man sante Giovanni Gabrieli (Italian; c.1555-1612)

This might be called a sacred madrigal; written in the vernacular instead of Latin, with more patently expressive music, it delivers a more emotional message.

Signor le tue man sante
qual humiltà, qual zelo
mosse de servi tuoi lavar le piante
o creator del cielo
già ascoso in mortal velo,
 rinova l'opra pia
 monda 'l mio cor
 d'ogni sua colpa ria.

Lord, your holy hands,
what humility, what zeal
moved them to wash your servants' feet!
O creator of heaven,
once wrapped in mortal veil,
 renew the holy work,
 cleanse my heart
 of every wicked fault.

Vergine il cui figliol
glorioso ascese a l'alto ciel
d'onde per noi mortali
in form' humana scese
 deh! pia
 dona a quest' alm' afflitta
 l'ali che segua lui
 sciolta da tanti mali.

Virgin, whose little son
ascended glorious to high heaven,
whence for us mortals
in human form he descended,
 ah! holy one,
 give this troubled soul
 the wings to follow him,
 freed from such great evils.

**Ecce, nunc tempus acceptabile. Nicolas Gombert
(S. Netherlands;c.1495-c.1560)**

Paul's second Letter to the Corinthians calls for action, and warns of suffering.

Ecce nunc tempus acceptabile,
ecce nunc dies salutis.
In his ergo diebus
exhibeamus nosmetipsos
sicut Dei ministros,
in multa patientia,
in vigiliis multis,
in orationibus frequenter,
in jejuniis multis,
et caritate non ficta.

Behold, now is the acceptable time;
behold, now is the day of salvation.
So in these days
we commend ourselves,
like servants of God
through great endurance
in many sleepless nights
with frequent prayers
through much hunger,
and with genuine love.

Clamabat autem mulier Chananaea Francisco Guerrero

In Matthew 15, a non-Israelite woman begs Jesus to heal her daughter. He declines, likening serving non-Israelites to throwing children's bread to the dogs. Unmoved by being called a dog, she gives him an argument, and he changes his mind: "Great is your faith!" Her daughter is healed.

Clamabat autem mulier Chananaea
ad Dominum Jesum, dicens:
Domine Jesu Christe,
fili David, adiuva me: filia mea
male a daemonio vexatur.
Respondens ei Dominus dixit:
Non sum missus nisi ad oves
quae perierunt domus Israel.

At illa venit, et adoravit eum,
dicens: Domine, adiuva me.
Respondens Jesus ait illi:
O mulier, magna est fides tua:
fiat tibi sicut vis.

But the Canaanite woman cried
to the Lord Jesus, saying:
Lord Jesus Christ,
son of David, help me: my daughter
is severely possessed by a demon.
Answering her the Lord said:
I was only sent to the sheep
who are lost from the house of Israel.

But she came and knelt before him,
saying: Lord, help me.
Answering, Jesus said to her:
O woman, great is your faith!
Be it done for you as you desire.



The High Line April 18, 2024

Kim Bergey

Missus est Gabriel Angelus Josquin des Prez (French; c.1452-1521)

The Annunciation, when the Angel Gabriel appears to Mary to tell her she will be the virgin mother of Jesus.

Missus est Gabriel angelus
ad Mariam virginem,
nuntians ei verbum:
Ave Maria, gratia plena,
Dominus tecum,
benedicta tu in mulieribus.
Alleluja.

The angel Gabriel was sent
to the virgin Mary,
informing her in the words:
"Hail Mary, full of grace,
The Lord is with you,
blessed are you among women."
Alleluia.



RSS & friends, caroling on 17th St. led by Gene Wisoff (John was sick), December 21, 2024

Norman Trabulus

Salve Regina Jean de Ockeghem (Franco-Flemish; c.1410-1497)

Of our four settings, this is the earliest. Standard, and the polyphony is rich.

Salve, Regina, mater misericordiae:
Vita, dulcedo, et spes nostra, salve.
Ad te clamamus, exsules, filii Hevae.
Ad te suspiramus, gementes et flentes
in hac lacrimarum valle.

Hail, Queen, mother of mercy:
Our life, sweetness and hope, hail.
To you we cry, exiles, Eve's children.
For you we sigh, moaning and weeping
in this vale of tears.

Eia ergo, Advocata nostra, illos tuos
misericordes oculos ad nos converte
Et Jesum, benedictum fructum ventris
tui, nobis post hoc exsiliium ostende.

Therefore look! our Advocate, those your
merciful eyes, turn them toward us.
And Jesus, blessed fruit of your womb,
reveal to us after this exile.

O clemens: O pia:

O merciful, O holy,

O dulcis Virgo semper Maria.

O sweet Virgin forever Mary.

Please stay for more good food and open singing!

The Renaissance Street Singers

performing in this concert:

Director: John Hetland

Sopranos: Joy Glazener
Kirsten Sjödahl

Altos: Barbara Rosen
Emma
Ezra Halleck
Gina Tlamsa

Tenors: John Bruce Rickenbacher
Dhananjay Jagannathan
Mark Fiedler

Basses: Bob Strock
Dick Hadsell