

The Chansonnier Cordiforme is a songbook, probably copied in 1475 for a roguish but musically cultivated priest named Jean de Montchenu – a contemporary chronicler called him ‘dissolute and full of all the vices’. The beautiful manuscript containing 43 songs is, uniquely, heart-shaped and covered in velvet. This recording presents both a representative cross-section of the manuscript’s repertoire, the majority of which is set to French texts and is among the best known and beautiful of the age, and a portfolio of differing performance options including instruments. In addition to works by such luminaries as Gilles Binchois and Johannes Ockeghem – music of elegant melody, textural refinement, and sometimes startling harmonic turns – there are ingenious and anonymous parodies of popular songs.

STRAIGHT FROM THE HEART

The Chansonnier Cordiforme

1 L'autre jour, par ung matin	4:01	10 Chiara fontana de belli costumi	1:22
2 Helas, n'aray je jamais mieulx	3:19	11 N'aray je jamais mieulx que j'ay	3:32
3 Terriblement suis fortunee	1:57	12 Dona gentile he bella come l'oro	4:01
4 De tous biens plaine est ma maistresse	7:12	13 De tous biens playne	1:20
5 Comme femme desconforte	5:40	14 O pelegrina, o luce, o clara stella	1:56
6 Fortune, par ta craulté	3:59	15 Ma bouche rit et ma pensee pleure	5:52
7 Adieu vous dy l'espoir de ma jonesse	4:31	16 Ma bouche plaint les pleurs de ma pensee	1:56
8 Le souvenir	1:07	17 La gratia de vos, donsella	2:01
9 Ben lo sa Dio se sum vergine e pura	5:30	18 Comme ung homme desconforté	3:22
		19 Perla mya cara, o dolce amore	7:44

Ensemble Leones • Marc Lewon



A co-production with Radio SRF 2 Kultur

A detailed track and artist list can be found inside the booklet • Recorded at Heilig-Kreuz-Kirche, Binningen, Switzerland, from 6th to 9th October, 2014 • Producer and musical director: Marc Lewon • Engineer and editor: Michaela Wiesbeck • The French, Italian and Spanish sung texts, along with German and English translations, can be accessed at www.naxos.com/libretti/573325.htm • Booklet notes: David Fallows and Marc Lewon
Cover: *Young Man Holding a Book* by the Master of the View of Sainte Gudule (fl. c.1485)
(The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, USA/Bequest of Mary Stillman Harkness, 1950)



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Playing Time
70:20



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