

The Chansonnier Cordiforme is a songbook, probably copied in 1475 for a roguish but musically cultivated priest named Jean de Montcheny – 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

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|---|------|--|------|
| 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 desconfortee | 5:40 | 14 O pelegrina, o luce, o clara stella | 1:56 |
| 6 Fortune, par ta cruauté | 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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