Carmina Burana literally means songs of Beunen. It is a collection of poems and songs in medieval Latin and Middle High German, found in the Benedictine abbey of Benediktbeuren in Beunen, Upper Bavaria. The manuscript dates from about 1230, with additions from later in the century. The majority of the texts are of French origin, by writers who are mainly anonymous. The two hundred or so poems in the collection fall into four groups: songs that have a moral or satirical intention, songs of spring and love, songs of drinking and gambling, and songs with a spiritual content. For the reconstruction of melodies in this recording, reference has been made to the contemporary notation of musicians active in France, to secular German settings derived from surviving works of the German troubadours, and to parallel manuscripts, whereby a new poem is coupled with a known melody. Medieval musicians were past-masters at this practice. Some of the texts of Carmina Burana have become widely known through their use by Carl Orff. In their original poetic form and in the music associated with them, the songs have all the exuberance and bawdiness associated with Chaucer.

Carmina Burana

1. Bache, bene venies
2. Axe Phebus aureo
3. Clauso Cronos
4. Katerine collaudemus
5. Fas et nefas
6. Tempus transit gelidum
7. Ich was ein Chint so wolgetan
8. Ecce torpet probitas
9. Exiit diluculo
10. Vite perdite
11. Procurans odium
12. Celum, non animum
13. Tempus est iocundum

Ensemble Unicorn • Michael Posch
Ensemble Oni Wyts • Marco Ambrosini

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