

Neidhart was one of the most popular Minnesingers – or “poet-musicians” – of the late Middle Ages. His songs deal with rustic, erotic and violent topics mediated, however, through court culture, which gives them a stylised, ironic sense of detachment. His division of songs into “summer” or “winter” adds another layer of complexity, with melancholy or dance-orientated topics prevailing, depending on the season. The instrumental music carries a rural character. The “Frankfurt Fragment” manuscript has never been recorded in full, and is here performed by one of the most outstanding ensembles in the field.

NEIDHART

(c.1185-c.1240)

A Minnesinger and his 'Vale of Tears'

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|----------|--|-------------|-----------|--|-------------|
| 1 | <i>cantilena 'Der han' ('The cock')</i> | 2:36 | 8 | <i>muteta 'Non veul mari' ('I do not want a husband')</i> | 1:46 |
| 2 | <i>Mir ist ummaten leyde (I am grieved beyond all measure)</i> | 5:27 | 9 | <i>Ich claghe de blomen (I mourn for the flowers)</i> | 9:30 |
| 3 | <i>Summer unde winder (Summer and winter)</i> | 7:44 | 10 | <i>stantipes 'Der hedamerschol' ('The hedamerschol')</i> | 2:29 |
| 4 | <i>clausula</i> | 3:53 | 11 | <i>Allez daz den sumer (Everything that all summer long)</i> | 7:04 |
| 5 | <i>Sinc eyn gulden hoen (Sing, you golden hen) / stantipes 'Der munich' ('The monk')</i> | 7:40 | 12 | <i>Vil wol gelopter got (God, so highly extolled)</i> | 3:09 |
| 6 | <i>Willecome eyn sommerweter suze (Welcome the sweet summer weather)</i> | 5:54 | 13 | <i>Bonus track: Je muir, je muir (I die, I die)</i> | 1:40 |
| 7 | <i>Guoten wib wol üch der eren (Gracious ladies, you deserve honour)</i> | 5:49 | | | |

Ensemble Leones

Marc Lewon, Director, Voice **2 5 7 11 13**, Lute **10 11**, Gittern **4 6**, Vielle **2 7 8 12**

Els Janssens-Vanmunster, Voice **3 6 9 12 13**

Baptiste Romain, Vielle **2-8 12**, Bagpipes **1 10**, Voice **13**

With special thanks to the parish of Heilig Kreuz Binningen

A detailed track list can be found inside the booklet

The Middle High German sung texts, along with Modern German and English translations, can be accessed at www.naxos.com/libretti/572449.htm

Recorded at Heilig Kreuz Kirche, Binningen, Switzerland, from 6th-9th April, 2010

Producer: Marc Lewon • Engineer and editor: Félix Stricker Batista • Booklet notes and translations: Marc Lewon

Cover: *Neidhart forced by armed peasants to make an oath*, from the Große Heidelberger Liederhandschrift (Codex Manesse) (courtesy of the Universitätsbibliothek Heidelberg, Germany)

NAXOS

DDD

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Playing Time
64:42



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