

PROGRAMS

for touring season 2011-2012

Crowned with Laurels

14th c. Settings of Poetry by Petrarch, Sacchetti, Boccaccio, and others
Recording to be available in 2011!

An exploration of the elegant beauty and fiery emotions in the extraordinary repertoire of fourteenth-century Italy and France. We pay tribute to the revered fathers of Humanism: Francesco Petrarch, Giovanni Boccaccio, Franco Sacchetti, and their French contemporaries through musical settings by Jacopo da Bologna, Niccolò da Perugia, Guillaume de Machaut, Binchois, and the poet-composer Francesco Landini, who was honored by King Peter of Cyprus with a crown of laurels.

Rome, San Pietro, and the Papacy

Premier performance scheduled for Utrecht, 2011!

The fourteenth-century Papacy found itself at the center of one of the most devious political conflicts in history. The Schism of the Western Church led to the election of up to three popes, one in Rome, one in Avignon, and one in Pisa! The Schism created an enormous outlet for new compositions supporting three different papal seats. LIBER explores the music of this tumultuous time, bringing to life spectacular music performed in San Pietro, Rome as well as the celebratory motets written for the Avignon, Roman, and Pisan popes. Composers include Antonius de Civitate, Matteo da Perugia, Humbertus de Salinis, and Guillaume Du Fay.

Cromwell's survivors

English music from before the Dissolution of the Monasteries

The grievous loss of so much Medieval English music is primarily due to one man, Thomas Cromwell. This ascendant of Oliver presided over the Dissolution of the Monasteries which left magnificent buildings derelict and caused the wholesale loss of books and manuscripts from its libraries. Some of this music has survived through the ages as fragments, solitary flyleaves, and endpapers hidden in the bindings of unrelated manuscripts. This program couples these once-lost treasures from the period's most influential centers of musical activity - Durham, Fountains Abbey, Norwich, Bury St. Edmunds Abbey, and the cosmopolitan court of Edward III - with those found in the only complete codex written in the British Isles since the 11th century, the Old Hall Manuscript.

Nowell

Christmas Songs Old & New
A proven hit on both sides of the Atlantic!

A unique and broad-ranging collection of pieces from the middle ages and renaissance, combined with a few exquisite modern choral works based on ancient texts. The program intertwines carols, motets, and lullabies from across Europe and North America with modern works such as Hugo Distler's "Es ist ein Ros entsprungen," and John Harbison's "O magnum misterium."