

Silencio

The Christmas story retold with traditional, original and arranged music from across Europe
by Merula, Van Eyck, Bartók & Bach

Immaculate Conception

Jorge Jiménez
(*1978)

Below Zero (2020)
for violin and electronics

Heinrich Ignaz Franz von Biber
(1644 - 1704)

“The Annunciation” - Preludium
from: “Rosenkranzsonaten”, No. 1
arr. for violin and recorder

Jacob van Eyck
(1590 - 1657)

Engels Nachtgaeltje
from: Der Fluyten-Lusthof
solo recorder

Alphonso X
(c. 1275)

Cantiga "Des oge mais quer' eu trobar"
Cantiga "A Virgen mui groriosa"
from: Cantigas de Santa Maria
arr. for recorder and vielle

Nativity of Jesus

Michael Praetorius/ Jorge Jiménez
(1551 - 1621/ *1978)

Es ist ein Ros entsprungen
for recorder, violin and electronics

Jacob van Eyck

Variations upon “Puer nobis nascitur”

Jorge Jiménez

A Cold Night (2020)
for recorder and electronics

Annunciation to the Shepherds

Heinrich Ignaz Franz von Biber

“The Annunciation” - Aria & Variatio
from: “Rosenkranzsonaten”, No. 1
arr. for violin and recorder

Béla Bartók
(1881 - 1945)

No 3. Pê-loc | Standing Still
No 2. Brâul | Peasant Costume
Erdélyi Tánc | Transylvanian Song
from: Romanian Folk Dances and 44 Violin Duets
arr. for recorder and violin

Johann Sebastian Bach
(1685 - 1750)

Choral “Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern”
from: BWV 54
arr. for recorder and violin

Anonymous
(14th century)

Istampitta In Pro
for recorder and vielle

Adoration of the Shepherds

Tarquinio Merula
(1595 - 1665)

Canzonetta spirituale sopra la nanna
arr. for recorder and vielle

Béla Bartók

Gyermekrengetéskor I Wiegenlied

No 6. Mărunțel | Little One

from: Romanian Folkdances and 44 Violin Duets

arr. for recorder and violin

Programmenotes

In many European cultures, Christian and Pagan practices have fused over the centuries to tell the Christmas story. One of those is 'The Song of the Sibyl' (Spanish: El Canto de la Sibila), which amongst other parts of Spain has been performed in Catalunya on Christmas Eve nearly uninterruptedly since medieval times.

Originally composed as a liturgical drama sung in Gregorian chant, the lyrics comprise a prophecy describing the Apocalypse. These simple but beautiful arching melodies are spell-binding, spine-tingling, and combine human melancholy with the ineffable. Due to the nature of oral transmission, we face different variations and models of the Song today. Similarly to the Renaissance, where it was common practice to set the Gregorian melody of the Song to polyphonic music, we let the poem lead as thread through our programme, narrating the Christmas story while featuring old and new compositions embracing more than one thousand years of music history.

Well-known Christmas favourites of Praetorius connect with the folklore inspired sound world of Bartók; traditional Spanish Christmas songs - recited, sung, and played - pave the road towards Christmas. Electronic soundscapes echo what could have been the original sound of the Song.

A programme where festive relieve and jollity speak as much as silence and reflection. A programme conceived in 2020.

Anna Stegmann | recorders

Jorge Jiménez | violin, vielle, electronics