

RenChorNY Presents



Austro- Hungarian Court Composers

Music of Ludwig Senfl, Thomas Stölzer, and
their predecessors including Josquin Des
Prez, with instrumental accompaniment

Richard Porterfield, *conductor*

Sunday May 5, 2024, 4 pm
Hudson View Gardens Lounge
128 Pinehurst Avenue, Manhattan

Sunday May 12, 2024, 4 pm
Trinity Lutheran Church
164 West 100th Street, Manhattan

Introduction to RenChorNY

Musicologists search for keys in history and archives to discover how and why we have music from the past. Ongoing sacred service likes to preserve performance traditions, but often deals with evolving ideologies and changing tastes. To help preserve the history of this music and replicate historically informed performance skills, in 1954 The Renaissance Chorus of New York, now RenChorNY, was created.

Educated at Columbia University, founder-director Harold Brown learned about this ancient choral tradition under Nadia Boulanger in 1930. In the early 1950s, he recruited his theory and performance students at the High School of Music and Art to study and perform with chorus mainly the masterworks of Franco-Flemish polyphonic literature, often newly rediscovered and edited. The Music pages at www.RenaissanceChorus.org preserves some of those Concerts and LPs.

If you feel, as we do, that this music is important and that our role is to bring it to the broader community of choral musicians, singers and audiences, please consider supporting us by contributing through the PayPal link at the above website, or at this GoFundMe link: <https://gofund.me/df9cc602>.

Renaissance Chorus Association
116 Pinehurst Avenue, New York, NY 10033
212-740-4050

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Today's Program

Lust hab ich g'habt zur Musica Ludwig Senfl (c.1486-c.1543)

Tenors with viols

Ave rosa sine spinis Senfl

Chorus with recorder

Psalm 132: Ecce quam bonum Senfl

Chorus

Psalm 126: Nisi Dominus Senfl

Chorus with recorder and viols

Fortuna desperata á3 attr. Antoine Busnois (c.1430-1492)

Anna Willson, Stephen Bonime, and Richard Porterfield

Quodlibet: Fortuna desperata/Nasci, pati, mori Senfl

Chorus with recorder and viols

Ave Maria...virgo serena á4 Josquin des Prez (c.1450-1521)

Chorus

Ave Maria...virgo serena á6 Senfl, after Josquin

Chorus with recorder

Tandernaken Senfl

Viol ensemble

O admirabile commercium Thomas Stolzer (c.1480-1526)

Chorus with recorder

Psalm 37 Stolzer

Chorus with recorder and viols

Texts and Translations

Lust hab ich g'habt zur Musica Ludwig Senfl (c.1486-c.1543)

Tenors with viols

Lust hab ich g'habt zur Musica
von Jugend auf wie noch bisher,
von erst "ut re mi fa sol la"
geübt, danach durch weiter Lehr'
kam es dazu,
daß ich kein Ruh
mehr haben mocht, denn nur im G'sang
stund mein Begier,
da half nichts für,
aus dem erfolgt der erst' Anfang.

Und 'bald ich das ergriffen hätt,
daß ich konnt' von mir selber wohl
den G'sang verstehn, danach ich tät
mehr fragen, wie denn einer soll,
dem solches liebt
und sich selbst übt,
daß er erlang den rechten Grund.
Hub mich dazue
spät und auch frue,
zu dienen wohl, wie ich nur kunnt,

Dem Herren mein mit ganzem Fleiß,
daran er dann ein G'fallen trug.
Es schicket sich mit solcher Weis',
daß er mir gab zu schreiben g'nug.
Was von ihm g'macht,
ward wohl betracht',
danach ich mich auch richten sollt.
Das g'fiel mir sehr,
weil er stets mehr
mir zeigen tät, was ich nur wollt.

Wie er mit seinem Namen g'nannt,
das tu ich nachher melden schon.
Er ist in aller Welt bekannt.
Lieblich an Kunst, fröhlich im Ton
sein Melodei
war g'stellt gar frei.
Darob man sich verwundern tät.
Es war gut Ding
zu singen 'ring,
künstlich dazu die Gnad' es hätt.

I have always had a passion for music,
since my youth until now,
first practicing 'ut re mi fa sol la',
then through further teachings
it came to be,
that I could not find peace anymore,
for only in singing
lay my desire,
nothing else could satisfy,
from which arises the first beginning.

And soon I had grasped
that I could, from within myself,
understand the singing, after which
I would ask more about how one should,
who loves such things
and practices themself,
to attain the true foundation.
I began to do so
late and also early,
to serve well, as best I could.

To the Lord with all my diligence,
in which He then took pleasure.
It befitted me with such wisdom,
that He gave me enough to write.
What was made by Him,
was well considered,
after which I should also align myself.
This pleased me greatly,
because He always showed me
what I desired.

As he is named with his name,
I will tell you afterwards.
He is known throughout the world.
Lovely in art, cheerful in tone,
his melody
was composed quite freely.
That made people wonder.
It was a good thing
to sing around,
artfully, with grace.

Isaac, das war der Name sein.
Halt wohl, es werd vergessen nit,
wie er sein Kompositz so fein
und klar hat g'setzt, dazu auch mit
Mensur geziert.
Dadurch probiert,
noch heutig's Tags sein Lob und Kunst
vorhanden ist.
Herr Jesus Christ,
teil' ihm dort mit göttliche Gunst!

Gern wollt ich Gott drum dankbar sein,
wenn ich nur das vollbringen könnt,
wie jeder soll. Es steht gar fein,
daß man ihn lob', weil er ein'm gönnt,
zu lernen hie,
was ein'r vor nie
hätt mögen von ihm selbst verstahn,
das mir erzeigt
und zugeeigt
mit Gnaden ward durch diesen Mann.

Isaac, that was his name.
Remember it well, it won't be forgotten,
how finely he composed his music
and set it forth so clearly,
adorned with mensuration.
Through this it is proven
that even today his praise and art
are still present.
Lord Jesus Christ,
grant him divine favor there!

I would gladly be grateful to God for it,
if only I could accomplish it,
as one should. It is very fine,
that one praises Him, because He grants
to learn here,
what one would never
have been able to understand from Himself,
which He has shown to me
and imparted to me
with grace through this man.

--Translation by ChatGPT 3.5.

Ave rosa sine spinis Senfl

Chorus with recorder.

Ave rosa sine spinis,
Te quam Pater in divinis
Majestate sublimavit
Et ab omni vae servavit.
Maria, stella dicta maris,
Tu a Nato illustraris
Luce clara deitatis,
Qua praefulges cunctis datis.
Gratia plena: te perfecit,
Spiritus Sanctus dum te fecit
Vas divinae bonitatis
Et totius pietatis.

Dominus tecum: miro pacto
Verbo in te carne facto
Opere trini conditoris:
O quam dulce vas amoris.
Benedicta tu in mulieribus:
Hoc testatur omnis tribus;
Coeli dicunt te beatam
Et super omnes exaltatam.
Et benedictus fructus ventris tui,
Quo nos semper dona frui
Per praegustum hic aeternum
Et post mortem in aeternum:
Amen.

Hail, rose without thorns,
you whom the Father divinely
exalted to majesty
and preserved from every woe.
Mary, called star of the sea,
you are made famous by a Birth,
by the clear light of deity,
you who outshine all gifts.
Full of grace: he made you perfect,
the Holy Spirit, when he made you
a vessel of divine goodness
and of complete piety.

The Lord is with you: in wondrous manner
by word made flesh in you
by an act of the triune Creator:
O how sweet the vessel of love.
Blessed are you among women:
every tribe testifies to this;
the heavens declare you blessed
and exalted over all.
And blessed is the fruit of your womb,
whereby we ever enjoy gifts
through a foretaste here of eternity
and after death forever:
Amen.

Psalm 132: Ecce quam bonum Senfl

Chorus

Ecce quam bonum et quam jocundum,
Habitare fratres in unum!
Sicut unguentum in capite,
Quod descendit in barbam, barbam Aaron,
Quod descendit in oram vestimenti ejus;
Sicut ros Hermon,
Qui descendit in montem Sion.
Ecce quam bonum et quam jocundum,
Habitare fratres in unum!

Quoniam illic mandavit Dominus
benedictionem,
Et vitam usque in saeculum.

Ecce quam bonum et quam jocundum,
Habitare fratres in unum!
Gloria Patri, et Filio,
et Spiritui Sancto.
Sicut erat in principio,
et nunc, et semper,
et in saecula saeculorum. Amen.
Ecce quam bonum et quam jocundum,
Habitare fratres in unum!

Behold, how good and how pleasant it is
When brothers dwell in unity!
Like precious oil on the head,
Which runs down onto the beard, Aaron's beard,
Which runs down onto the edge of his robe;
Like the dew of Hermon,
Which falls on the mountain of Zion.
Behold, how good and how pleasant it is
When brothers dwell in unity!

For there the Lord has commanded
the blessing,
And life for evermore.

Behold, how good and how pleasant it is
When brothers dwell in unity!
Glory to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit.
As it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
for ages upon ages. Amen.
Behold, how good and how pleasant it is
when brothers dwell in unity!

Psalm 126: Nisi Dominus Senfl

Chorus with recorder and viols

Nisi Dominus aedificaverit domum,
In vanum laboraverunt qui aedificant eam.
Nisi Dominus custodierit civitatem,
Frustra vigilat qui custodit eam.
Vanum est vobis ante lucem surgere.
Surgite postquam sederitis,
Qui manducatis panem doloris.

Cum dederit dilectis suis somnum,
Ecce haereditas Domini, filii;
Merces, fructus ventris.
Sicut sagittae in manu potentis,
Ita filii excussorum.
Beatus vir qui implevit
desiderium suum ex ipsis;
Non confundetur cum loquetur
inimicis suis in porta.

Unless the Lord has built the house,
They labor in vain who build it.
Unless the Lord watches the city,
He stays awake uselessly who watches it.
It is pointless for you to rise before dawn.
Rise after you have rested,
You who eat the bread of sorrow.

When he gives his beloved ones sleep,
Behold the heritage of the Lord, sons;
A reward, fruit of the womb,
Like arrows in the hand of the powerful,
So are the sons of those sent out.
Blessed is the man who has
all of them he wants;
He will not be confounded when he speaks
to his enemies at the gate.

Fortuna desperata á3 attr. Antoine Busnois (c.1430-1492)

Anna Willson, Stephen Bonime, and Richard Porterfield

Fortuna desperata
iniqua e maledicta,
che di tal dona electa
la fama ay denegata.

Desperate fate,
iniquitous and accursed,
that blackened the good name
of a woman beyond compare.

Quodlibet: Fortuna desperata/Nasci, pati, mori Senfl

Chorus with recorder and viols. Text as above, plus:

Nasci, pati, mori.

To be born, to suffer, to die.

Ave Maria...virgo serena á4 Josquin des Prez (c.1450—1521)

Chorus

Ave Maria, Gratia plena,
Dominus tecum, Virgo serena.
Ave cuius conceptio
Solemni plena gaudio,
Coelestia, terrestria,
Nova replet laetitia.
Ave cuius nativitas
Nostra fuit solemnitas;
Ut lucifer lux oriens,
Verum solem praeveniens.
Ave pia humilitas,
Sine viro foecunditas,
Cuius annuntiatio
Nostra fuit salvatio.
Ave vera virginitas,
Immaculata castitas,
Cuius purificatio
Nostra fuit purgatio.
Ave praeclara omnibus
Angelicis virtutibus,
Cuius fuit assumptio
Nostra glorificatio.
O Mater Dei,
Memento mei.
Amen.

Hail Mary, full of grace,
the Lord is with you, serene virgin.
Hail whose conception,
full of solemn joy,
fills heaven and earth
with a new delight.
Hail whose birth
was our holy day;
like the rising morning star,
preceding the very sun.
Hail, blessed humility,
fertility without a man,
whose annunciation
was our salvation.
Hail true virginity,
immaculate chastity,
whose purification
was our expiation.
Hail brightest in all
angelic virtues,
whose assumption was
our glorification.
O Mother of God,
remember me.
Amen.

Ave Maria...virgo serena á6 Senfl, after Josquin

Chorus with recorder. Text and translation as above.

Tandernaken Senfl

Viol ensemble

O admirabile commercium Thomas Stolzer (c.1480-1526)

Chorus with recorder

O admirabile commercium!
Creator generis humani,
animatum corpus sumens,
de Virgine nasci dignatus est :
et procedens homo sine semine,
largitus est nobis suam Deitatem.

O admirable exchange:
the creator of human-kind,
taking on a living body
was worthy to be born of a virgin
and, coming forth as a human without seed,
has given us his deity in abundance.

Psalms 37 Stolzer

Chorus with recorder and viols

1: Erzürne dich nicht über die Bösen;
sei nicht neidisch über den Übeltäter.
Denn wie das Gras werden
sie bald abgehauen werden,
und wie das grüne Kraut werden sie verwelken.
Hoff auf den Herrn und tu Guts;
bleib im Lande und ernähre dich im Glauben.
Hab dein Lust am Herrn; der wird dir geben,
was dein Herz wünscht.
Befiehl dem Herrn deine Wege und hoff auf ihm;
er wirds wohl machen,
und wird dein Gerechtigkeit hervorbringen,
wie das Licht und deine Recht wie den Mittag.

2. Halt dem Herrn still
Und lass ihn mit dir machen.
Erzürne dich nicht über den Mann,
dem es wohl geht und tut nach seinem
Mutwillen.
Steh ab vom Zorn und lass dein Grimm;
Erzürn dich nicht, dass du auch Übel tust.
Denn die Bösen werden ausgerottet,
Die aber des Herrn harren,
Werden das Land erben.
Es ist noch um ein kleines,
so ist der Gottlose nimmer;
so wirst du auf seine Stätte achten
und er wird nicht da sein.
Aber die Elenden werden das Land erben
und Lust haben in grossem Fried.

3. Der Gottlose dräuet dem Gerechten
und beisst seine Zähne ausammen über ihn.
Aber der Herr lachet sein, den er sieht,
Dass sein Tag kommt.
Die Gottlosen ziehen das Schwert aus
und spannen ihren Bogen,
dass sie fallen den Elenden und Armen,
und schlachten die so aufrichtig gehen im Wege.
Aber ihr Schwert wird in ihr Herz gehn.
Und ihr Bogen wird zerbrechen.
Es ist besser das Wenige des Gerechten,
Denn das grosse Gut vieler Gottlosen.
Denn das Arm der Gottlosen wird zerbrechen,
Aber der Herr erhält die Gerechten.

Fret not yourself because of evildoers,
neither be envious against workers of iniquity.
for they shall soon be
cut down like the grass,
and wither as the green herb.
Trust in the Lord and do good,
you will dwell in the land and be fed.
Delight yourself in the Lord;
he will give you the desires of your heart
Commit your way unto the Lord; trust in him.
He will bring it to pass
and he will bring forth your righteousness
as the light, and your judgment as the noonday.

Rest in the Lord,
and wait patiently for him;
fret not yourself because of him who prospers
in his way, because of the man who brings
wicked devices to pass.
Cease from anger and forsake wrath;
fret not yourself in any wise to do evil.
For evildoers shall be cut off,
but those that wait upon the Lord,
they shall inherit the earth.
For yet a little while,
and the wicked shall not be:
Yes, you shall diligently consider his place,
and it shall not be.
But the weak shall inherit the earth and
delight themselves in the abundance of peace.

The wicked plots against the just,
and gnashes his teeth against him.
The Lord shall laugh at him, for he sees
that his day is coming.
The wicked have drawn out the sword,
and have bent their bow,
to cast down the poor and needy,
and to slay such as be of upright conversation.
Their sword shall enter into their own heart,
and their bows shall be broken.
A little that a righteous man has is better
than the riches of many wicked.
For the arms of the wicked shall be broken,
but the Lord upholds the righteous.

4. Der Herr kennt die Tageder Frommen
Und ihr Erbe wird ewiglich bleiben.
Sie warder nicht zu Schanden
in der bösen Zeit,
und in der Teurung warder siegenug haben.
Denn die Gottlosen warder umkommen,
Und die Feinde des Herrn,
wenn sie gleichsein wie die köstlich Aue,
warder sie doch alle werden,
wie der Fauch al wird.
Der Gottlose borget und zahit nicht;
der Gerecht aber ist barmherzig und mild.
Denn seine Gesegneten erben das Land;
aber eine Verfluchten warder ausgerottet.
Von Gott werden des Manns Gänge gefördert,
Und hat Lust an seinem Wege.
Fället er, so wird er nicht weggeworfen;
Denn der Herr erhält ihn bei seiner Hand.

5. Ich bin jung gewesen und hab noch nie
gesehen den Gerechten verlassen,
oder seinen Samen nach Brot gehn.
Täglich ist er barmherzig und leihet,
und sein Same wird gesegnet sein.
Lass vom Bösen und tu Guts
und bleibe immerdar.
Denn der Herr hat das recht lieb;
und verlasst seine Heiligen nicht;
Ewiglich werden sie bewahret;
Aber der Gottlosen Same wird ausgerottet.
Die Gerechten erben das Land
und bleiben ewiglich darinnen.
Der Mund des Gerechten geht mit Weisheit um
und seine Zunge redet vor Gericht.
Das Gesetz seines Gottes ist in seinem Herzen,
Seine Tritt gleiten nicht.

6. Der Gottlose sieht auf den Gerechten
und gedenkt ihn zu töten.
Aber der Herr lässt ihn nicht in seinen Händen
und verdammt ihn nicht,
wenn er verurteilt wird.
Harr auf den Herrn und bewahre seine Weg;
so wird er dich erhöhen,
dass du das Land erbest;
Wenn die Gottlosen werden ausgerottet,
wirst du sehen.
Ich sah einen Gottlosen mächtig
und eingewurzt
wie ein grünender Lorbeerbaum.
Da man vorüberging, sieh, da war er dahin;
ich fragte nach ihm, da ward er nirgend funden.

The Lord knows the days of the upright,
and their inheritance shall be for ever.
They shall not be ashamed
in the evil time,
and in days of famine they shall be satisfied.
But the wicked shall perish,
and the enemies of the Lord
shall be as the fat of lambs;
they shall consume;
into smoke shall they consume away.
The wicked borrows and pays not again;
but the righteous shows mercy and gives.
For the blessed of him shall inherit the earth,
and those cursed of him shall be cut off.
The steps of a good man are ordered by the
Lord, and he delights in his way.
Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast
down, for the Lord upholds him with his hand.

I have been young, and now am old, yet have I
not seen the righteous forsaken,
nor his seed begging bread.
He is ever merciful, and lends,
and his seed is blessed.
Depart from evil, and do good,
and dwell for evermore.
For the Lord loves judgment,
and forsakes not his saints;
They are preserved for ever,
but the seed of the wicked shall be cut off.
The righteous shall inherit the land,
and dwell therein for ever.
The mouth of the righteous speaks wisdom,
and his tongue talks of judgment.
The law of his God is in his heart;
none of his steps shall slide.

The wicked watches the righteous
and seeks to slay him.
The Lord will not leave him in his hand,
nor condemn him
when he is judged.
Wait on the Lord, and keep his way,
and he shall exalt you
to inherit the land;
when the wicked are cut off,
you shall see it.
I have seen the wicked in great power
and spreading himself
like a green bay tree.
Yet he passed away, and lo, he was not;
yea, I sought him, but he could not be found.

7. Bewahre die Frömmigkeit
und schau, was aufrichtig ist;
denn zu letzt wird derselbe Friede haben.
Die Übertreter aber werden vertilget miteinander,
und die Gottlosen werden zuletzt ausgerottet.
Das Heil aber der Gerechten ist von dem Herrn;
der ist ihre Stärk in der Zeit der Not.
Und der Herr wird ihm beistehn
und wird sie erretten; und wird sie von den
Gottlosen erretten und ihm helfen;
denn sie trauen auf ihn.

Mark the perfect man,
and behold the upright,
for the end of that man is peace.
But the transgressor shall be destroyed together;
the end of the wicked shall be cut off.
But the salvation of the righteous is of the Lord;
he is their strength in the time of trouble.
And the Lord shall help them,
and deliver them; he shall deliver them
from the wicked, and save them,
because they trust in him.

Acknowledgements

Thank you to all our Performers:

SINGERS:

Soprano: *Lianna Portnoy, Lee-Ann Beauchamp, Valerie Ceriano

Soprano/Alto: *Anna Willson, *Elizabeth Thorne, Dorrie Rosen, Leonore Max, Virginia Kaycoff

Alto/Tenor: Emma, Mark Fiedler, Ezra Halleck

Tenor: *Stephen Bonime, Alan Richtmyer, Bruce Rickenbacher

Bass: Michael Benoit, Mick Bowen, Sig Rosen

INSTRUMENTALISTS:

Dr. David Schiller, *bass recorder*; *Raphael Safra, *treble viol*; Virginia Kaycoff and *David Safra, *tenor viols*; *Jisoo Ok, *bass viol*.

*Guest artists.

Thanks to John Bradley for recommending singers, and Virginia Kaycoff for making instrumental parts and securing the additional viola da gambists.

To John Hetland for maintaining our website, editing and printing the Senfl performing editions, and preparing the programs.

To Peter Randall for his amazing score-videos of Heinrich Finck, Heinrich Isaac, and now Thomas Stoltzer. See his work here: <https://www.youtube.com/@NYCNexus>

To Erik-Peter Mortensen for video production.

We thank our venue hosts Jose Pagan, Evelyne Luest and members of the Performing Arts Group of Hudson View Gardens, Theodore Rosen and Kevin Alexander of HVG house management, and Horace Beasley and staff at Trinity Lutheran Church.

Aileen Hengeveld and George Gilliland for the poster designs.

Alec Spencer – Admissions, and accounting

And Our Media and Service Collaborators:

The Patch,

Early Music America,

Naomi Morse-Gotham Early Music Scene,

Steve Friedman-Vocal Area Network,

John Maclay-New York Choral Consortium.

Gofundme support, PayPal Giving Fund

And the public sites from which we downloaded scores: CPDL and IMSLP.

Thanks to the Audience – to all who've come to hear our performance!

Thanks to all who, at this writing, have Donated to our Season and Projects:

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