

RENAISSANCE CHORUS SINGS OBRECHT MASS

The major work on Saturday night's Judson Hall concert by the Renaissance Chorus was Jacob Obrecht's Mass "Salve dira parens." Harold Brown, the conductor of the chorus, spent quite a lot of time before the performance discussing the work's beauties, so much so that a listener might have become somewhat resistant.

But what Mr. Brown produced with his 32-voice chorus of young people, augmented by an instrumental quintet, more than proved his thesis. Even for those reasonably conversant with 15th-century polyphony, this mass turned out to be a remarkably communicative and lovely piece of music. And, although the youthfulness of the singers showed up from time to time in a rough intonation or a scrambled entrance, Mr. Brown's blend of scholarship and enthusiasm pulled them through.

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