Hildegard von Bingen - A Feather On The Breath Of God (Kirkby) [1985]

01. Columba Aspexit 02. Ave, Generosa 03. O Ignis Spiritus 04. O Jerusalem 05. O Euchari 06. O Viridissima Virga 07. O Presul Vere Civitatis 08. O Ecclesia Emma Kirkby - soprano Gothic Voices Christopher Page – director

Hymns and sequences by the remarkable Abbess Hildegard of Bingen are recorded under the direction of Christopher Page, with Emma Kirby and others.T wo of the eight pieces are solos while most are choral and a few have the support of a symphony as well. The title is indeed approprate for this sacred vocal music. ---Rovi

This was the 1981 disc, from Christopher Page's pioneering Gothic Voices group and the incomparably pure-voiced Emma Kirkby, that launched interest in the medieval visionary and composer Hildegard von Bingen. It remains the Hyperion label's best-selling recording and helped generate a stream of medieval music recordings in the following decade.

While later groups made a feature of the ecstatic, rhythmically fluid nature of the music, Gothic Voices chose to perform the hymns and sequences with great simplicity, alternating a single voice with unison voices over drones. Bingen's spellbinding melodies are clear and meditative, achieving a rare, high beauty whose integrity has proved timeless. --- classical-music.com

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