

Josquin Des Prez – Missa de Beata Virgine

Written by bluesever

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1. *Missa de beata virgine - Kyrie (Kyrie 1 - Christe - Kyrie 2)* 2. *Missa de beata virgine - Gloria* 3. *Missa de beata virgine - Credo* [play](#) 4. *Missa de beata virgine - Sanctus (Sanctus 1 - Pleni Sunt - Hosanna 1)* 5. *Missa de beata virgine - Benedictus (Benedictus - Hosanna 2)* 6. *Missa de beata virgine - Agnus Dei (Agnus Dei 1 - Agnus Dei 2 - Agnus Dei 3)*
Performer - A Sei Voci

Josquin des Prez (1450-1521) is a French composer. His music provides a bridge between the late medieval period and Renaissance. Very little is known, but much is conjectured, about his early life and training. He began as a choral singer and was composing by 1483. He traveled to Rome and Milan and sang in various secular and papal courts.

Josquin returned to France when the French king, Louis XII, invaded Italy in 1498. In fact, there is an anecdote (that even may be true) about Josquin in Louis XII's court: the king had not paid Josquin a promised amount, so Josquin composed a motet using Psalm 117, "Remember your word to your servant." The court was charmed by Josquin's cleverness and Louis XII paid him. The *Missa de Beata Virgine* is an amalgamation of three medieval mass styles. While the strict cantus-firmus style is found in the last three sections, the plainsong and parody styles appear as well.

The vocal ensemble A Sei Voci is based in the French city of Sablé-sur-Sarthe and was founded in 1977. The name, naturally, is so given as the group uniformly consists of six regular member voices, although other singers and instrumentalists are added as each project they

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undertake may require. A Sei Voci was founded with the purpose of recovering vocal works from the Baroque and Renaissance periods that were not yet revived or otherwise known to the public.

Early on, A Sei Voci established itself as a force to be reckoned with through a series of concerts, held mainly in continental Europe, in which the "visual" show proved of equal interest to that given in the music. A Sei Voci also became known through a number of outstanding recordings made for the French company Erato, where the group was often identified as "Ensemble a sei voci." In 1991, A Sei Voci was reorganized with original member Bernard Fabr -Garrus named as leader, and at that time the shortened form of the name became permanent. Under Fabr -Garrus' leadership, the group flourished and soon found itself in a position to negotiate a new recording contract with Auvidis Astr e. Thankfully, this arrangement managed to survive Astr e's absorption by the French media giant Na ve.

A Sei Voci has recorded works by Gesualdo, Josquin Desprez, Charles d'Helpfer, Janequin, Monteverdi, Jommelli, and many others, and its trophy case is filled with multiple awards and citations of distinction, including the Choc de Musique, Diapason d'Or, and the Grand Prix du Disque of the Acad mie de Charles Cros, to name just a few. A Sei Voci is no longer just limited to Renaissance and Baroque literature, but is now known for its performances in works of Mahler and Brahms. Since the beginning of Fabr -Garrus' directorship, A Sei Voci has likewise reached out to contemporary composers as well and has given premieres of new works by composers such as Thierry Escaich and Jean-Fran ois Zygel. --- Uncle Dave Lewis, allmusic.com

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