

Codex Las Huelgas (Paul Van Nevel) [1993]



Music from 13th Century Spain 1. *Ex illustri nata prosapia* 2. *Crucifigat omnes* 3. *O Maria maris stella* 4. *Ex agone sanguinis* 5. *Belial vocatur* 6. *Sanctus* 7. *Agnus Dei* 8. *Benedicamus Domino* 9. *Flavit auster* 10. *Eya mater* 11. *Quis dabit capiti* 12. *Casta catholica* 13. *Homo miserabilis*

Huelgas Ensemble: Catherine Jousscllin - cantus

Christine Gahrielle Madar - cantus Nele Minten - cantus Marie-Claude Vallin - cantus
Katelijne Van Laethem - cantus Bart Coen - soprano, alto and tenor recorder Peter de Clercq
- tenor and bassett recorder An Van La et hem - fiddle René Van Laken - fiddle, rebec Paul
Van Nevel - conductor

Just how engaging, catchy, lively, and artful can 13th century Spanish music be? Very, as evidenced by this collection of motets, conductus, mass movements, and strophic songs from the legendary manuscript compiled at the 12th-century Cistercian convent at Las Huelgas. This remarkable program, highlighting only a handful of the nearly 200 works contained in the original manuscript, shows not only the beauty and inventiveness of sacred music of this period, but also how colorful and varied it could be. And just how well sung and played is it? Impressively, as shown by these five exceptional female voices and period instrumentalists from the superb Huelgas Ensemble. Instruments--recorders, fiddles, rebec, and percussion--are sparingly and effectively used, and the singers treat us to exciting yet rarely heard ornamentation, an ancient art that sounds eerily modern. --David Vernier, amazon.com

The Huelgas Ensemble was founded by director Paul Van Nevel in 1971. It has specialized in choral music, frequently with instrumental support, from the thirteenth century on to the early Baroque. Their recordings of the High Renaissance have been especially prized. They have also been pioneers in the performance of the difficult Ars Subtilior repertory of the late medieval

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