Written by bluesever Friday, 30 August 2013 16:06 -

Llibre Vermell de Montserrat (Ars Nova) [1991]



1. Song: O virgo splendens (fol. 21v-22) 2. Virelai/danse: Stella splendens (fol. 22r) 3. Song: Laudemus Virginem (fol. 23) 4. Virelai: Mariam matrem virginem (fol. 25r) 5. Virelai/danse: Polorum Regina (fol. 24v) 6. Virelai: Cuncti simus concanentes (fol. 24) 7. Song: Splendens ceptigera (fol. 23) 8. Ballad/danse: Los set goyts (fol. 23v) 9. Motet: Imperayritz de la ciutat joyosa (fol. 25v) 10. Virelai: Ad mortem festinamus (fol. 26v) Ars Nova (Ensemble)

Spanish manuscript from the 14th century containing a collection of pilgrim songs. Its name means "Red Book of Montserrat", so called because of the colour of its cover and the fact that it was found in the Benedictine monastery of Montserrat (Catalonia, Spain).

The words for the songs were written by the monks in Latin and Catalonian. Some of the songs were composed by them as well, and the rest were simply adaptations of the secular folk music of the time, with the original earthy lyrics changed into suitably religious ones. The resulting collection is varied in style: elements of plainchant, Ars Nova polyphony and energetic folk dances can be found.

Ars Nova is a period instruments ensemble founded in 1981 by the Warsaw Music Society. It performs works by Polish and European composers from the 13th to the 17th century, under J. Urbaniak as its artistic director. Its discography includes highly-acclaimed recordings of the complete output of Mikołaj of Radom and Piotr of Grudziądz, as well as many premiere recordings of Polish medieval and Renaissance music. Arts Nova worked closely with renowned

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Polish singers, the late A. Hiolski, J. Artysz and J. Rappé. It also performs contemporary and folk music.

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