



ensemble Peregrina (Basel)
dir. Agnieszka Budzińska-Bennett

Ensemble Peregrina, founded in 1997 by the Polish singer and musicologist Agnieszka Budzińska-Bennett in Basle, researches and performs sacred and secular music from twelfth to fourteenth century Europe. The ensemble's main interest lies in the early polyphonies and monophonic repertoires of the Notre Dame school and Aquitanian *nova cantica*; the aim always being to look for a creative "counterpoint" to the mainstream in the less known peripheral sources. The ensemble's programmes are characterised by a careful choice of themes and pieces, always paying close attention to their textual and musical interrelationships.

Peregrina's interpretation and style is informed by the original source materials and treatises, as well as the latest musicological and historical research. The ensemble strives to approach a performance transmitted in the sources as closely as possible without having to renounce a well-balanced and beautiful vocal performance.

The ensemble's continuing partnership with the Schola Cantorum Basiliensis, where its members met and studied, led to CD recordings *Mel et lac* (Raumklang 2005) with Marian Aquitanian songs of the 12th century and *Filia praeclara* (Divox 2008) with medieval music from 13th and 14th century Polish Clarisse convents. Both CD have received critical acclaim in the European and American press including a.o. 5 ***** from Goldberg Magazine. *Filia praeclara* has also won the prestigious ECHO-KLASSIK Award 2009 for the best a capella recording of the year. Peregrina's third CD *CruX* is out now in Glossa (2011).

Peregrina has performed at numerous festivals in Switzerland (such as Lucerne Festival), Poland, Germany, Spain, Great Britain, Estonia, Iceland, Italy and Czech Republic. The concerts of the ensemble have been regularly broadcasted on Schweizer Radio DRS 2, Deutschlandfunk, Südwestfunk, SWR2, Bayerischer Rundfunk, Klaasika Radio Estonia, Polskie Radio 2 und BBC 3. 2003/2004 the ensemble has also been invited to lecture on the music of 12th century Aquitaine at the Schola Cantorum Basiliensis. Since 2011, Agnieszka Budzińska-Bennett and Kelly Landerkin belong to the research department of this institution.

The name *peregrina*, the wanderer, alludes to the transmission of music and ideas throughout Europe in the Middle Ages, but also reflects the personal journeys of the singers themselves. The ensemble members (coming from Poland, Switzerland and the United States) together achieve a dynamic balance through their differing origins, and they unite to emulate the interaction and convergence of the cultures and histories of the music they perform.

www.peregrina.ch

**Forthcoming 2012:**

Forum Alte Musik St. Gallen 2012 (CH)
Tage Alter Musik Regensburg 2012 (D)
Freunde Alter Musik Basel 2012 (CH)
Misteria Paschalia Kraków 2012 (PL)
klangreich alte kirche, Romanshorn 2012 (CH)

Most important performances:

Internationale Tage der mittelalterlichen Musik Montalbane 2011 & 2004 (D)
Stunde der Kirchenmusik, Stiftskirche Stuttgart 2011 (D)
Festival Les Gouts Reunits Lausanne 2011 (CH)
Musik in der Klosterkirche Muri 2011 & 2007 (CH)
Benedictine Music Summer Tyniec/ Tuchów/ Staniątki 2011 (PL)
Masovia Festival Warszawa 2010 (PL)
Starosądecki Festiwal Muzyki Dawnej 2010 (PL)
Festiwal „Muzyka w raju“ Paradyż 2010 (PL)
Festival Goldbergowski Gdańsk 2010 (PL)
Festival Vokalmusik entlang der romanischen Strasse 2010 (D)
Festival Cantar di Pietre Lugano 2010 (CH)
Abendmusiken in Berner Münster Bern 2010 (CH)
Forum Alter Musik Zürich "Anbetung und Extase" 2009 (CH)
York Early Music Festival 2009 (GB)
Festival INNOVANTIQUA Winterthur 2008 (CH)
Freunde Alter Musik Laufenburg 2008 & 2006 (CH/D)
Festival "Portico di Zamora" 2007 (ES)
Europäische Kirchenmusik Festival Schwäbisch Gmünd 2007 (D)
Tage Alter Musik Knechtsteden 2007 (D)
Freunde Alter Musik Basel 2006 & 2002 (CH)
IV Königliches Musikfestival Kloster Zlata Koruna & Prague 2006 (CZ)
Schnüttgen Konzerte Köln 2005 (D)
IX International Tartu Early Music Festival Festivitas Artium 2004 (EE)
XIV. Berliner Tage für Alte Musik 2003 (D)
Lucerne Festival 2003 (CH)
Festival de musique ancienne de Rougemont La Folia 2002 (CH)
Musica Antiga Palma de Mallorca 2002 (ES)