

HILDEGARD TRANSFIGURED

Tuesday 19 October 2023 | 9pm
University Church of St Mary the Virgin

Voice trio are supported by



Voice trio
Innerstrings video artist
Dragonfly Lighting designer
Tabitha Lincoln calligraphy

Part of Oxford International Song Festival's *Song Futures* programme, generously supported by the **Nicholas John Trust**

PROGRAMME

Hildegard of Bingen (1098 - 1179), arr. Stevie Wishart	Antiphona: O successores (Psalm antiphon for Confessors) Responsorium: Favus distillans	Hildegard of Bingen Hildegard of Bingen
Marcus Davidson	Musical Harmony	Hildegard of Bingen
Laura Moody	from Hildegard Portraits 1. Humility 2. Universe as Body	Hildegard of Bingen / Translation © Joseph L. Baird & Radd K. Ehrman
Tim Lea Young	Three Wings: pt 1	Hildegard of Bingen / Translation © Sabina Flanagan, edited Tim Lea Young
Hildegard of Bingen, arr. Stevie Wishart	Antiphona: O virtus sapientie (Votive antiphon for Divine Wisdom)	Hildegard of Bingen
Stevie Wishart	Azeruz	Hildegard of Bingen, Translation © Pitra (1882)

Laura Moody	from Hildegard Portraits 3. Sermon 4. Sing	Hildegard of Bingen / Translation © Joseph L. Baird & Radd K. Ehrman
Hildegard of Bingen, arr. Stevie Wishart	Antiphona: O mirum admirandum (Psalm antiphon for St. Disibod)	Hildegard of Bingen
Stevie Wishart	O Choruscans Lux Stellarum	Hildegard / Translation © Stevie Wishart
Hildegard of Bingen, arr. Stevie Wishart & Voice trio	Antiphona: O orzchis Ecclesia (Antiphon for Dedication of a Church)	Hildegard of Bingen
Marcus Davidson	O Boundless Ecclesia	Hildegard of Bingen / Translation © Voice trio
Laura Moody	from Hildegard Portraits 5. O Woman 6. O Love	Hildegard / Translation © Joseph L. Baird & Radd K. Ehrman
Emily Levy	How Sweetly You Burn	Hildegard of Bingen / Translation © Barbara Newman, edited by Emily Levy
Hildegard of Bingen, arr. Stevie Wishart	Antiphona: Unde quocumque venientes (Antiphon for St. Ursula)	Hildegard of Bingen / Translation © Stevie Wishart
Laura Moody	from Hildegard Portraits 7. The Living Light	Hildegard of Bingen / Translation © Joseph L. Baird & Radd K. Ehrman

TEXTS & TRANSLATIONS

ANTIPHONA : O SUCCESSORES

Hildegard / arr. Wishart

O successores fortissimi leonis,
inter templum et altare,
dominantes in ministracione eius,
sicut angeli sonant in laudibus
et sicut assunt populis,
in adiutorio vos estis inter illos
qui hec faciunt,
semper curam habentes in officio agni.

PSALM ANTIPHON FOR CONFESSORS

English Translation © Richard Vendome

O followers of the mightiest lion,
between the sanctuary and the altar,
masters in his household,
just as the angels sound praises
and are here to help the people,
you also are among those
who accomplish this,
always ministering in the service of the Lamb.

RESPONSORIUM: FAVUS DISTILLANS

Hildegard / arr. Wishart

Favus distillans Ursula virgo fuit,
que Agnum Dei amplecti desideravit.

Mel et lac sub lingua eius,
quia pomiferum hortum
et flores florum
in turba virginum
ad se collegit.

Gloria Patri et Filio
et Spiritui Sancto.

Mel...

RESPONSORY FOR ST. URSULA AND COMPANIONS

English Translation © Stevie Wishart

A dripping honeycomb was Ursula the virgin,
who desired to embrace the Lamb of God.

Milk and honey under her tongue,
an orchard of fruit trees
and blossoming flowers
among the crowd of virgins
gathered all around her.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit.

Milk...

MUSICAL HARMONY

Davidson / Hildegard *Scivias*

Translation © Canberra Academy of Music and Related Arts

Musical harmony softens hard hearts. It induces in them the moisture of reconciliation, and it invokes the Holy Spirit. When different voices sing in unity, they symbolise the simple tenderness of mutual love. When different voices blend in song, they symbolise the blending of thoughts and feelings which is the highest pleasure human beings can know. Let the sweet sound of music enter your breast, and let it speak to your heart. It will drive out all darkness, and spread spiritual light to every part of you.

from Hildegard Portraits

Moody / Hildegard / Translation © Joseph L. Baird & Radd K. Ehrman (OUP 2006)

1. HUMILITY

How could God work through me? If I were not aware I am but a poor little creature, I tremble in fear. Totally ignorant. I count myself as nothing. But I stretch my hands to God so He might raise me up like a feather. Which, having no weight of its own, flies on the wind.

Poor little woman though I am. A Poor little form of a woman.

2. UNIVERSE AS BODY

I shored up the four corners of the world with fire, cloud and water.
I joined together all the boundaries of the world like veins.

Rocks from fire
Water like bones
Earth from moisture
Viridity like marrow

The sun, the light of his eyes
The wind, the hearing of his ears
The air, his fragrance
The dew, his taste
Exuding viridity like
His mouth.

THREE WINGS

Young / Hildegard / Translation © Flanagan, edited Young

In una via, quae habet vitam,
tres alas (habens),

I, the fiery life of the divine substance, blaze in the beauty of the fields,
shine in the waters and burn in the sun, moon and stars.
I bring all things to life.

Quarum una in altum volat,
et altera de terra sudat,
et tertia undique volat.

In one life-giving path,
three wings you have.

ANTIPHONA: O VIRTUS SAPIENTIAE

Hildegard / arr. Wishart & Voice trio

O virtus sapientie
que circuiens cicuisti
comprehedendo omnia
in una via, que habet vitam
tres alas habens
quarum una in altrum volate
et alterra de terra sudat
et tertia undique volat
Laus tibi sit sicut te decet
O sapientia

AZERUZ

Wishart / Hildegard *Lingua ignota*

Lingua ignota
Anziz
Marizma
Zizria
Sparinichibus
Aseruz
Magizima
Zizanz
Gusca
Dizia
Mazma
Pazia
Crischia
Mikoziz
Laufrica
Fulzia
Florisca
Gimeldia

ANTIPHON FOR DIVINE WISDOM

English Translation © Stevie Wishart

O strength of wisdom
that circulating, encircles,
surrounding all that has life
in one path;
having three wings,
one flies in the heights
and another sweeps the earth
and the third flies in every place.
Praise to you, as befits you,
O Wisdom.

Translations after Pitra (1882)

English
Cowbane
Common centaury
Cinnamon
Almond
Hemp
Black hellebore
Briar
Lesser celandine
Burning bush
Vetch
Henbane
Laurel
Garden radish
Coltsfoot
Marigold
Seed of the balsam
Pine

from Hildegard Portraits

Moody / Hildegard / Translation © Joseph L. Baird & Radd K. Ehrman (OUP 2006)

3. SERMON

I see a black fire in you
Kindled against us.

Sometimes you are like a bear
Which growls under its breath,
But sometimes like an ass
Not prudent in your duties
But worn down.

I see you like a little boy
Or some madman
Living before Living Eyes

The luminaries are missing from the firmament
of God's justice in your utterances, as when the stars
do not shine, for you are like the night exhaling darkness,
and you are like people who do not work, or even walk
in the light because of your indolence. But just as a snake
hides in a cave after it has shed its skin, you walk in filth like
disgusting beasts.

You are quick in your pursuit of adolescent lust, incapable,
like children, of even speaking your own salvation.
You do whatever your flesh demands. For the power of God
will crush and destroy your necks which have become stiff
with iniquity, for they have been puffed up as with the breath
of the wind, since you neither know God nor fear men.
You do not see God nor even wish to do so.

Oh, what great and evil enmity this is! That a person is
unwilling to live an upright life, either for God's sake or
mankind's, but, rather, seeks honour without work and
eternal rewards without abstinence. Such a one, in his
supposed sanctity, vainly longs to cry out, as the devil does,
I am good and holy. But this is not true.

4. SING

Sing the mysteries of God
Like a trumpet
Which only returns a sound
But does not function unassisted
For it is Another who breathes into it...
From time to time
I resound a little, like
The dim sound of a trumpet
From the Living Light

ANTIPHONA: O MIRUM ADMIRANDUM

Hildegard / arr. Wishart & Voice trio

O mirum admirandum,
quod absconsa forma praecellit,
ardua in honesta statura
ubi vivens altitudo
profert mystica
unde o Disibode
surges in fine
succurrente flore
omnium ramorum mundi
ut primum surrexisti

O CHORUS LUX STELLARUM

Wishart / Hildegard

O choruscans lux stellarum
o splendidissima specialis forma regalium
nuptiarum
o fulgens gemma
Tu es ornata in alta persona
quae non habet maculatam rugam
tu es etiam socia Angelorum
et civis sanctorum
fuge, fuge speluncam antiqui perditoris!
et veniens, veni in palacium Regis.

O ORZCHIS ECCLESIA

Hildegard / Hildegard

O orzchis (immensa)* Ecclesia
armis divinis praecineta
et hyazinthe ornata
tu es caldemia (aroma)
stigmatum loifolium (populorum)
et urbs scientiarum
O, o, tu es etiam crizanta (uncta)
in alto sono
et es chorzta (corusca) gemma

*Latin translation of *lingua ignota*

PSALM ANTIPHON FOR ST. DISIBOD

English Translation © Stevie Wishart

O marvellous miracle
that a hidden figure stood out
steep on the noble stature
where the living height
utters mysteries
hence o Disibod
you will arise in the end
with the aid of a flower
of all the branches of the world
as you first arose

English Translation © Stevie Wishart

O glistening starlight,
O splendid special one
of the royal marriage,
O glowing gem:
You are arrayed as a person of high rank
who has no mark nor wrinkle;
You are also an angel's companion
and a citizen of sacredness.
Run, flee from the ancient destroyer's cave!
Come, enter into the palace of the King.

VOTIVE ANTIPHON FOR THE DEDICATION OF A CHURCH

English Translation © Stevie Wishart

O orzchis (immense)* Church,
encircled by divine weapons,
and adorned with hyacinths,
you are the caldemia (fragrance)
of the stigmata of the loifolium (peoples),
and a city of knowledge.
O, o, you are crizanta (anointed)
with soaring sound,
and you are a chorzta (twinkling) jewel.

*English translation of *lingua ignota*

O BOUNDLESS ECCLESIA

Davidson / Hildegard

O boundless Ecclesia
your gems the colour of heaven:
you are the fragrance of the wounds of nations,
the city of knowledge.
O lady, O jewel ever sparkling:
such music sounds at your crowning!

from Hildegard Portraits

Moody / Hildegard / Translation © Joseph L. Baird & Radd K. Ehrman (OUP 2006)

5. O WOMAN

O, woman
What a splendid being you are!
For you have set your foundation in the sun,
And have conquered the world.

6. LOVE

Daughter listen to me,
Your mother
Speaking to you in the spirit.
I so loved...
The nobility of your character
Your wisdom
Your chastity
Your spirit
Every aspect of your life

Let all who have grief like mine mourn with me
All who have had such great love in their hearts and minds...

She was like a flower in her beauty and loveliness
In the symphony of this world.

HOW SWEETLY YOU BURN

Levy / Hildegard *Ordo Virtutum* / translation- Newman, edited- Levy

Oh friend you stand in the royal bridal chamber,
Oh how tenderly you burn in the King's embraces.
When the sun shines through you
So that your noble flower shall never wilt.

Oh noble friend, no shade will ever find your flower drooping.
The flower of the field falls before the wind.
The rain scatters its petals.

Oh friend, you abide forever
In the chorus of the company of heaven.
Hence, you are a tender flower that shall never fade.

ANTIPHONA : UNDE QUOCUMQUE VENIENTES

Hildegard / Hildegard

Unde quocumque venientes,
perexerunt velut cum gaudio
celestis paradisi suscepte sunt
quia in religione morum
honorifice apparuerunt

ANTIPHONA FOR SAINT URSULA

English Translation © Stevie Wishart

From wherever they came
they were welcomed
with the joy of celestial paradise
because in their spiritual life
they appeared full of honour.

from Hildegard Portraits

Moody / Hildegard / Translation © Joseph L. Baird & Radd K. Ehrman (OUP 2006)

7. THE LIVING LIGHT

The words
The words I speak
The words I speak are not my own
Nor any human being's

I looked
I looked to wisdom
I looked to wisdom and I saw
I looked to wisdom and I heard
I looked to wisdom and I saw and heard
These words

These words
From that light
From that light which I see
From that light which I see in my soul
From that light which I see in my soul, I saw
These words

Poor little form of a woman
A fragile vessel
Not from myself
But from the...

Serene Light
The living fountain
The living fountain says
The Serene Light
In a vision of my waking soul
In a vision
A clear revelation
In a true vision
Says

The Living Light says
The Bright Fountain, truthful and just says
A clear revelation in a true vision says
I say
I say these things
I say these things to you
I say these things to you in the light
In the light of
In the light of true visions
The light
The light

The living light...

The light
Far brighter than the lucent cloud through which the sun shines
Not like
Not like the words
Not like the words of human speech
But like a blazing flame
A cloud that moves through clear air

I can by no means grasp
This form of light
Any more than I can stare fully into the sun.
When I do see it
All my sorrow and pain vanish from my memory
And I become
More like a young girl
Than an old woman

The words
The light
The living fountain
The living light
The bright fountain
I saw
I heard
From that light
Which I see in my soul
