

ENSEMBLE LABYRINTHUS

CARMINA HELVETICA

12th–14th Century Conductus and Rondelli
from Swiss Monasteries and Libraries

CARMINA HELVETICA

01 Veni Sancte Spiritus

Rondellus, Anonymus

Veni, Sancte Spiritus
Illustra cecam mentem
Ut plebs devota maneat.
Per te sit homo Lepidus
Ad filii parentem.
Veni, Sancte Spiritus
Illustra cecam mentem;
Da dona fari cetibus,
Cetervamque presentem.
Numen tuum ne deserat.
Veni, Sancte Spiritus
Illustra cecam mentem
Ut plebs devota maneat

02 Dum medium silentium tenerent

*Conductus (1 pt),
wahrscheinlich Gautier de Châtillon*

1. Dum medim silentium
Tenerent legis apices.
Et littere dominium
Regnarent apud simplices.
Extendit Pater brachium,
In quo, si recte iudices,
Regnum et sacerdotium
Reliquit lude iudices.
De tenebris historie
Processit sol iustitie.
2. Modo fortassis alio
Mundum mundari potuit
Quam passo Dei Filio,
Sed nullus ita congruit
Nam mortis exterminio
Mederi vita debuit,
Et curari contrario
Contrarium oportuit.
De tenebris historie
Processit sol iustitie.
3. Si purus homo fieret
Redemptor et non alius,
Redemptus homo crederet
Deo quiddam potentius
Eique genu flecteret,
Et in cunctis obnoxius
Cultore ius impenderet,
Quo nihil est absurdus.
De tenebris historie
Processit sol iustitie.
4. Ergo nostre propaginis
Naturam venit sumere

01

Come, O Holy Spirit,
Shed light on our blind souls,
That thy people may remain devoted;
Through thee may man be acceptable
To the Father's son.
Come, O Holy Spirit,
Shed light on our blind souls;
Grant gifts of tongues to thy followers,
And let not thy spirit desert
This present company.
Come, O Holy Spirit,
Shed light on our blind souls,
That thy people may remain devoted.

02

While the summits of the Law
Were immersed in profound silence,
And the lordship of the letter
Held down those in ignorance,
The Father extended his arm,
Where, if you should rightly judge,
The law and the priesthood
Of the Jews had left their judges.
From the darkness of history
The sun of Justice proceeded.
Perchance by some other means
The world might have been cleansed
Than by the Passion of the Son of God,
But no one was fitting so to act;
For by death's extermination
Life ought to be made whole,
And by the incongruous,
Incongruity should be reconciled.
From the darkness of history
The sun of Justice proceeded.
If the Redeemer and no one else
Should become pure man,
Redeemed man should believe
In God more strongly
And to Him bend,
And in all things, being subject
To care, devote himself to justice;
Than this idea nothing is more incongruous.
From the darkness of history
The sun of Justice proceeded.
Therefore, he came to take up
The nature of our race,

Deus in alvo virginis
Ut artifex in opere,
Ut per naturam hominis
Haberet morti cedere,
Et per virtutem numinis
Posset a morte surgere.
De tenebris historie
Processit sol iustitie.
5. Subtili diligentia,
Mirabili commercio,
Ex duplici substancia
Facta fuit hec unio,
Et quidquid sapientia
Possedit ab initio,
Collatum est ex gratia
Totum Marie Filio.
De tenebris historie
Processit sol iustitie.

6. Hec est fides catholica,
Quam heresis non lacerat,
Hec est, quam vox prophetica
Rota in rotam dixerat,
Prioris analetica
Dum resolvit et reserat,
Quod sub lege Mosaica
Vetustas occultaverat.
De tenebris historie
Processit sol iustitie.

7. Qui se peccatis obligat,
Per hanc fidem absolvitur,
Si post lapsum se corrigat,
Nam qui vere conteritur,
Penam peccati mitigat
Et iudex mitis redditur,
Nam ut idem bis exigat,
Bona fides non patitur.
De tenebris historie
Processit sol iustitie.

8. A iudice se liberant
Et a contractu debiti,
Qui luxum carnis macerant
Et mundo non sunt dediti,
Et sic, qui consenuerant
In peccatis decrepiti,
Dum ita se regenerant,
Se quasi modo geniti.
De tenebris historie
Processit sol iustitie.

God in the virgin womb
As a worker among his works,
That through man's nature
He might yield to death
And through God's power
Be able to arise from death.
From the darkness of history
The sun of Justice proceeded.
By a delicate diligence,
By a marvellous fellowship,
From two substances
This one was made;
And whatsoever God's wisdom
Possessed from the beginning
Was brought together out of grace
Wholly in the son of Mary.
From the darkness of history
The sun of Justice proceeded.

This is the Catholic faith
Which heresy cannot harm,
This is that which the prophet's voice
Had spoken ` a wheel in a wheel;
He resolved the riddle
When he explicated and unlocked
That which truth had hidden
Under the Mosaic Law,
From the darkness of history
The sun of Justice proceeded.

He who binds himself to sin
Is absolved through this faith,
If after his fall he corrects himself,
For he who is truly repentant,
Lessons the punishment of sin,
And a mild judgment is given him;
For good faith does not allow
That he pay a double penalty.
From the darkness of history
The sun of Justice proceeded.

They free themselves from the judge
And from the bondage of sin,
Who weaken the extravagances of the flesh
And are not given over to the world;
And they who thus present themselves,
Having grown old in their sins,
When they renew themselves,
They are like those only just born.
From the darkness of history
The sun of Justice proceeded.

03 Puscioleus nobis nascitur

Rondellus, Anonymus

Puscioleus nobis nascitur
Gaude, gaude,
Gaude, gaude, plebs Israel!
Infans hodie egreditur,
Gaude, gaude,
Puscioleus nobis nascitur
Gaude, gaude;
Filiolus Syon oritur,
Gaude, gaude,
Incarnatus est Emanuel.
Puscioleus nobis nascitur
Gaude, gaude,
Gaude, gaude, plebs Israel!

04 Procedenti puero

Rondellus, Anonymus

Procedenti puero
Eya, novus annus est,
Virginis ex utero
Gloria laudis
Deus homo factus est
Et immortalis.
In valle miserie
Eya, novus annus est,
Venit nos redimere.
Gloria laudis
Deus homo factus est
Et immortalis.

Christus nobis natus est,
Eya, novus annus est,
Crucifigi passus est.
Gloria laudis
Deus homo factus est
Et immortalis.

Cuius circumcisio
Eya, novus annus est,
Nostra sit salvatio.
Gloria laudis
Deus homo factus est
Et immortalis.

Redemptorem seculi
Eya, novus annus est,
Laudent omnes populi.
Gloria laudis
Deus homo factus est
Et immortalis.

Collaudemus Dominum,
Eya, novus annus est,
Salvatores hominum.

03

For us a child is born,
Rejoice, rejoice,
Rejoice, rejoice,
O people of Israel!
An infant comes forth today,
Rejoice, rejoice.
For us a child is born,
Rejoice, rejoice;
Syon's son arises,
Rejoice, rejoice,
Emmanuel is made flesh.
For us a child is born,
Rejoice, rejoice,
Rejoice, rejoice,
O people of Israel!

04

To the boy proceeding,
Eia, this is a new year!
From the virgin's womb,
Give glory of praise;
God is made man
And immortal.
He comes to redeem us
Eia, this is a new year!
Placed in the valley of woe.
Give glory of praise;
God is made man
And immortal.

Christ is born for us,
Eia, this is a new year!
And he suffers the crucifixion.
Give glory of praise;
God is made man
And immortal.

Let his circumcision
Eia, this is a new year!
Be our salvation.
Give glory of praise;
God is made man
And immortal.

Let all people praise
Eia, this is a new year!
The redeemer of the world.
Give glory of praise;
God is made man
And immortal.

Let us all praise the Lord,
Eia, this is a new year!
The Saviour of men.

Gloria laudis
Deus homo factus est
Et immortalis.

Give glory of praise;
God is made man
And immortal.

05 Unicornis captivatur

Conductus (2 pt), Anonymus

Unicornis captivatur,
Aule regum presentatur
Venatorum laqueo;
Palo serpens est levatus,
Medicatur sauciatus
Veneno vipereo.
"Alleluia," canite
Agnos morienti,
"Alleluia," pangite,
"Alleluia," promite
Leoni vincenti.

Pelicano vulnerato
Vita redit: pro peccato
Nece stratis misera;
Phos Phenicis est exusta,
Concremanturque vetusta
Macrocosmi scelera.
"Alleluia," canite
Agnos morienti,
"Alleluia," pangite,
"Alleluia," promite
Leoni vincenti.

Hydrus intrat crocodillum,
Extis privat, necat illum,
Vivus inde rediens;
Tris diebus dormitavit
Leo, quem resuscitavit
Basileus rugiens.
"Alleluia," canite
Agnos morienti,
"Alleluia," pangite,
"Alleluia," promite
Leoni vincenti.

06 Universi populi

— instrumental

07 Marie virginis

Conductus (1 pt), Anonymus

Marie virginis fecundat viscera
Vis sancti flaminis, non carnis opera.
Carens originis labe, puerpera
Dei et hominis dans nova federa
Et stella.

05

The unicorn is taken captive,
And presented to the king's chamber
From the snare of the hunters.
The serpent is raised up from a rod
And the wounded is healed
From the viper's poison.
Sing: "Alleluia!"
For the dying lamb,
Sing: "Alleluia!"
Shout: "Alleluia!"
For the conquering lion.

Life returns to the wounded
Pelican: and to those prostrate
By wretched death for their sins;
The light of Phoenix is burned up,
And consumed are the ancient
Sins of the world.
Sing: "Alleluia!"
For the dying lamb,
Sing: "Alleluia!"
Shout: "Alleluia!"
For the conquering lion.

The hydeus enters the crocodile,
Robs him of his entrails, kills him,
And thence living returns;
For three days the lion slept,
He whom the roaring
King revived.
Sing: "Alleluia!"
For the dying lamb,
Sing: "Alleluia!"
Shout: "Alleluia!"
For the conquering lion.

06 Universi populi

— Instrumental

07

The power of the Holy Spirit
Makes fertile the flesh
Of Mary Virgin,⁴ but not by the work of the flesh.
Lacking the fall of original sin,
The birth
Of God and man Grants a new covenant
and a star.

Ardere cernitur ardenti radio,
Rubus nec uritur ingnis incendio:
Sic nec corrumpitur suscepto filio,
Virgo nec leditur in puerperio.
Tu que.

Miratur ratio Deum in homine,
Suscepto filio de matre virgine
Non fiat questio de tanto nomine:
Fides sut ratio, virtus pro semine.
Virgo.

08 Ovans chorus scholarium

Conductus (1 pt),
wahrscheinlich Gautier de Châtillon

Ovans chorus scholarium
Almum Leodegarium
Psallendo carmen varium
Pura colit mente.
Clara ortus prosapia
Nutritus aula regia,
Sacra perdiscens studia
Didone docente.
O trina de aureola
Gaudens, Leodegari,
Trina fortus areola
Letarisque stoleola;
Pro tuis preces cumula,
Ut queant beari.

Fide firmatus triplici,
Securus spe multiplici,
Dilectione duplici
Floruit beatus,
Bino felis charismate:
Mundo rigavit dogmate,
Corusco diademate
Fuit laureatus.
O trina de aureola
Gaudens, Leodegari,
Trina fortus areola
Letarisque stoleola;
Pro tuis preces cumula,
Ut queant beari.

De passionis rivulus
Bibens privatur oculis,
Lingua labris. Ne populis
Predicat eterne;
Nova fandi potential
Refert Dei magnolia,
Caput exaltans gaudia
Meruit superna.
O trina de aureola
Gaudens, Leodegari,
Trina fortus areola
Letarisque stoleola;

The Bush is seen to burn by a shining ray,
Yet it is not consumed on the fiery flame;
Thus the Virgin is uncorrupted on the birth of her son,
And she is untainted in her child-birth.

Reason is confounded at God in man,
When a son was raised up from a virgin mother,
And no question is raised at such a name:
Faith now becomes reason, And her obedience replaced
human seed.'
The Virgin

08

The chorus of scholars celebrate
Bountiful Leger
By singing a varied strain
And worshipping him with pure heart.
Arisen from noble stock
And nourished in a royal chamber,
He was most learned in sacred studies,
Being taught by Dido.
O rejoicing in a three-fold halo,
O Saint Leger, made steadfast
By a three-fold garden of virtues,
Thou art rejoiced in a robe of glory;
Heap up prayers for thy servants,
That they might be blessed.

Confirmed by triple faith,
Secure in multiple hope,
In double love,
Blessed, he flourishes
Happy in a double gift:
He bedewed the world with doctrine,
And with shining diadem
He was crowned.
O rejoicing in a three-fold halo,
O Saint Leger, made steadfast
By a three-fold garden of virtues,
Thou art rejoiced in a robe of glory;
Heap up prayers for thy servants,
That they might be blessed.

Drinking from the rivers
Of passion, he is deprived of his eye
His tongue and lips are slashed,
Lest to the people he preach eternal
But with renewed power of preaching
He relates the wonders of God;
Raising up his head,
He earns eternal joys.
O rejoicing in a three-fold halo,
O Saint Leger, made steadfast
By a three-fold garden of virtues,
Thou art rejoiced in a robe of glory;

Pro tuis preces cumula,
Ut queant beari.

09 Estampie on Beata Viscera

— instrumental

10 Quid frustra consumeris

Conductus (3 pt), Anonymus

Quid frustra consumeris
Ypocrita?
Quid laudari niteris?
Mente sollicita!
Quid te rebus ingeris
Et vetita
Ardenter amplecteris,
Non curans licita?
Vide, quia merita
Iam amiseris
Dum laudem condequeris
Et sic operis
Perot merces debita.

11 Ve proclamet clericorum

Conductus (3 pt), Anonymus

Ve proclamet clericorum
Pauperum elegia,
Cum omnino virtus morum
Vilescat eximia,
Pauperis prudential
In conspectus prelatorum
Obmutescit, et eorum
Gaudent illi gratia,
Qui preclara tribuunt exennia.

12 Homo natus ad laborem

*Conductus (1 pt),
Philipp the Chancellor*

Homo, natus ad laborem
Tui status, tue more
Sortis considera
Propensius;
Me parcus
Querelis aspera.
Questus ergo reprime;
Nec anime
Quod misère commiseris,
Quod pateris,
Miser impropera.

Me dum fecit Deus mundam,
Vas infecit fex immundam,
Corruptit lutea.

Heap up prayers for thy servants,
That they might be blessed.

09 Estampie on Beata Viscera

— Instrumental

10

Why in vain are you consumed,
O Hypocrisy?
Why do you aspire to be praised?
Take care for your soul!
Why do you with cares inflict yourself,
And the forbidden
Ardently embrace,
Caring not for lawful deeds?
Take care, for the rewards
Already you have lost,
While praise you seek;
And thus work's
Merited rewards have perished.

11

Alas: cries out the elegy
Of poor clerics,
When utterly custom's virtue
Splendid becomes worthless,
When the prudence of the poor
In the sight of prelates
Grows silent, when in their
Grace they rejoice
Who grant splendid gifts.

12

O man, born to the labour
Of your state, consider the nature
Of your lot
More readily;
Be more sparing
In the roughness of your complaints.
Repress, therefore, your lamentations;
Reproach not your soul
Because you have wretchedly sinned,
Because you have suffered,
O wretched man!

(Soul): When God cleanses me
The dregs make this vessel unclean,
For the body has corrupted me.

Desipio,
Nec sapio
Meum Promethea.
Nil in carnis carcere
Fit libere;
Parit enim contagium
Et vitium
Moles corporea.

In abyssum culpe ducis,
Que commissum opus ducis,
Procuras temere;
Me perimis,
Cum opprimis
Peccati pondere.

In abusum rationis
Vertis usum teque bonis
Privas gratuitis,
Dum sensibus
Assensibus
Faves illicitis.

Tibi nomen anime
Iam adime,
Quia recte non animas,
Cum perimas
Me mortis opera.

Tibi cogor obsequi
Et exsequi,
Opus rectum si iudices.
Vel claudices
A recti simitis.

13 Procedenti puero

— instrumental

14 Ortus dignis Christi signis

Conductus (2pt), Anonymus

Ortus dignis Christi signis
Prefulcitur mystice:
Pace tellus, rore vellus,
Gaudet, madet typice.
Gaudet cetus, Syon letus,
lubilet ecclesia;
Cedit fletus error, metus,
Redit cletus; Dies vetus
Novus fit ex filia.

In liquore, fons saporem,
Unda fluit olei;
Par tres soles fatur proles
Nasci trine fidei.
Gaudet cetus, Syon letus,
lubilet ecclesia;

I am foolish,
And I know not
My Prometheus,
In the prison of the flesh
Nothing is done freely;
For contagion
And sin
The body brings forth,

(Body): You lead into sin's abyss,
You who rashly carry out
The work commissioned by your guide;
You ruin me
When you oppress me
With the weight of your sin.

(Soul): Into abuse of reason
You turn its use, and of goods
Freely given you deprive yourself
When the senses
You favour
With illicit approbations.

(Body): Now take away
Your name of `Spirit',
For you do not rightly animate
When you press hard down
On me with the work of death.

(Soul): I am forced to obey you
And follow,
Whether you decide an a good work
Or whether you stumble
From the paths of righteousness.

13 Procedenti puero

— Instrumental

14

The birth of Christ Is mystically surrounded
By fitting signs:
Earth rejoices In peace, and figuratively
The fleece becomes bedewed.
The crowd rejoices, O happy Syon,
May the Church exult;
Sorrow yields, and error and fear,
While joy returns; the old day becomes new
Born from the daughter.

The old day becomes new.
Into liquid the found flows sap in a wave of oil
Through three suns The Soon is said to be born
of three-fold faith
The crowd rejoices, O happy Syon,
May the Church exult;

Cedit fletus error, metus,
Redit cletus; Dies vetus
Novus fit ex filia.

Veneranda ac miranda
Hec exstat nativitas,
Qua in unam fit persona,
Affla, caro, deitas.
Gaudet cetus, Syon letus,
Iubilet ecclesia;
Cedit fletus error, metus,
Redit cletus; Dies vetus
Novus fit ex filia.

15 Congaudent omnes angeli

Rondellus, Anonymus

Congaudent omnes angeli in festo Michaelis,
Qui fecit victoriam ob laudet salvatoris.
Qui misit "Ave: virgini as ore Gabrielis,
Quo canamus gloriam;
Congaudent omnes angeli in festo Michaelis,
Qui fecit victoriam;
Ut tollat mundo flebili in laudem Raphaelis
Pravitatis maculam splendore veri solis.
Congaudent omnes angeli in festo Michaelis,
Qui fecit victoriam ob laudet salvatoris.

16 Virgo Deum generat

Conductus (2 pt),
wahrscheinlich Gautier de Châtillon

Virgo Deum generat
Nobis incarnatum,
Iam, quem lex promiserat,
Intuemur datum;
Iam Pater accelerat
Solvere reatum
Humane miserie.
Virgo parit puerum
Integro pudore,
Neque dolet uterum
Parientis more;
lactat regem siderum
Celi plena rore.
Poli regina casta.

Eia, fratres! Utinam
Semper commendare
Hanc possemus dominam,
Ipsam collaudare!
Ego nunquam desinam,
Immo volo dare
Laudes sine termino.

Sorrow yields, and error and fear,
While joy returns; the old day becomes new
Born from the daughter.

Praiseworthy and wonderful
Stands out this nativity;
In which in one person are enclosed
The sould, the flesh, and the God-head.
The crowd rejoices, O happy Syon,
May the Church exult;
Sorrow yields, and error and fear,
While joy returns; the old day becomes new
Born from the daughter.

15

All the angels rejoice in the Feast of Michael,
Who has given the victory for the praise of the Saviour.
Who sent the "Ave" to the Virgin from the mouth of Gabriel,
To whom let us sing glory;
All the angels rejoice in the Feast of Michael,
Who has given the victory;
That from a weeping world he will into Raphaelic praise
The stain of depravity take away by the splendour of the
true sun.
All the angel rejoice in the Feast of Michael,
Who has given the victory for the praise of the Saviour.

16

The Virgin bore
God incarnate for us,
And now we see him given
Law had promised;
And now the Father has hastened
To redeem the guilt
Of human wretchedness.
The Virgin bore a son
With her honour intact,
And did not sully her womb
In the usual way of child-birth;
The chaste queen of heaven,
Repleat with heavenly dew,
Bore the king of the heavens.

Eia, brothers! would that
We could always grace
This mistress,
And praise her exceedingly!
I, for my part, shall never cease;
Indeed, I wish to give her
Praises without end.

17 Flore vernat virginali

Rondellus, Anonymus

Flore vernat virginali
Et doctrina spiritali
Iohannes pre ceteris.
Qui pre cunctis plus dilectus
Et a Christo preelectus;
Flore vernat virginali
Et doctrina spiritali.
Virus haustum superavit
Et liquorem non expavit
Dolium bullientis.
Flore vernat virginali
Et doctrina spiritali
Iohannes pre ceteris.

17

John flourishes above all others
With virginal flower
And spiritual doctrine.
Who more than the others was chosen
And preferred by Christ;
He flourishes with virginal flower
And spiritual doctrine.
He overcame the draught of poison,
And he feared not the cauldron
Of boiling oil.
John flourishes above all others
With virginal flower
And spiritual doctrine.