

GAMBA MUSIC CLUB

PIERRE de
MANCHICOURT

Regina celi letare

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GMC103
A Gamba Music Club publication
1997

Pierre de Manchicourt

(b. Béthune c.1510; d. Madrid, 5 Oct. 1564)

Manchicourt became chorister at Arras Cathedral in 1525 and in 1539 was appointed choirmaster of the collegiate chapel at Tournai. In 1545 he became the choirmaster at Tournai Cathedral. He moved in 1557 to become chapel master at Antwerp Cathedral. During this time his works were numerous and varied, and enjoyed a great reputation. His last four years were spent as *maestro de capilla* in the royal chapel at Madrid.

This magnificent setting of the famous Easter chant 'Regina celi letare' appeared in 1539. There is an ingenious canon between the top two voices producing quite complex rhythms, with florid counterpoints for the lower voices.