

GAMBA MUSIC CLUB

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AGRICOLA

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Alexander Agricola

(b. ?1446; d. Valladolid, 1505)

There is no certain knowledge of Agricola's early music education, but he is mentioned as a pupil of Okeghem. Other sketchy pieces of information show that he spent most of his life in the Netherlands. He was a distinguished singer and performer, and was in the service of Charles VIII of France. He is known to have been in Milan from 1472 - 1474. In 1491 he entered the service of Philip, Duke of Austria and sovereign of the Netherlands, and followed him to Castile in 1502 and 1505 where he died of acute fever in 1506. Among Agricola's work is a collection of three-part motets 'Harmonice musices' (1501), 8 four-part songs in the collection 'Canti cento cinquanta' (1503) and a volume of 5 masses.