

# GAMBA MUSIC CLUB

LOYSET COMPÈRE c1450-1518  
HEINRICH ISAAC c1450-1517

## TWO PRAYERS TO THE VIRGIN

Tr T T T/B B

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### Loyset Compère c1450 - 1518

Compère had served as a choirboy at Saint-Quentin where he was a pupil of Ockeghem and fellow student of Josquin. In 1486 he became *chantre ordinaire* to Charles VIII and later, canon and chancellor at Saint-Quentin, where he died in 1518.

### Heinrich Isaac c1450 - 1517

Nothing is known of Isaac's early life. He arrived in Florence at around 1475 having been called there specifically to assume the post of organist of the Capella di San Giovanni. It is assumed that his talents had been known of at the time for him to be given such privileged position at Lorenzo's court. Later he became organist at the churches of Santa Maria del Fiore and the Annunziata. As music teacher to Lorenzo's sons he had among his pupils the future Pope Leo X. He visited the court at Innsbruck in 1484, but returned to Florence to continue teaching. With the downfall of Medici, by 1497 Isaac had become court composer to Emperor Maximilian I. He made many repeated journeys to Konstanz and finally pleaded to be dismissed so he could return to Italy in 1514. He died in 1517 when he was succeeded by his pupil Senfl as court composer in Vienna.

### Notes and Translations

#### Compère:

Motet is from Canti B Numero Cinquanta published by Petrucci in 1502.

Heavenly virgin, made splendid by giving birth,  
Pitying the human race always,  
Look upon your servants perpetually  
Dedicating themselves to you, Virgin Mary

#### Isaac:

Motet is from Motetti a cinque libro primo. – Venezia, Petrucci, 1508

The text is corrupt and is only given in the top line, with no thought to underlay. The gist of the text could be an invocation to the Virgin, while possibly sucking up to some Prince of the Church on the side. The piece itself appears to be instrumental rather than a true vocal piece.

### Acknowledgement

Our thanks go to Nigel Coulton for his translation and suggestions on the Isaac text.