



GAMBA
MUSIC CLUB

HEINRICH ISAAC
c1450-1517

TWO
MARIAN MOTETS

Tr T T B

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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.

Translations

1. You are all fair, my love, nor have you any flaw; your lips drip like honeycomb; honey and milk are under your tongue; the scent of your oils exceeds all spices; for now the winter has fled; the rain is over and gone; the flowers have bloomed; the prosperous vineyards have sent out their fragrance, and the voice of the turtle-dove is heard in our land. Arise, make haste my love: come from Lebanon, come to be crowned.
2. Hail most holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of heaven, gateway to paradise, sovereign of the world, you alone are the true virgin. You have conceived Jesus without sin. You have borne the creator and saviour of the world, in which I truly believe. Pray for us through your beloved son to save us from all wrong.