

GAMBA MUSIC CLUB

LUDWIG SENFL

? - c1555

MOTET – *Ecce quam bonum*

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Ludwig SENFL (b. ?Zurich; d. Munich c.1555)

Possibly born in Switzerland, although at an early age he entered the court chapel of Maximilian I, succeeding Isaac as *Kapellmeister* and holding that office until the emperor's death (Jan 1519). A volume of manuscript songs in the Vienna Library contains some verses, written by Senfl himself, describing his early enthusiasm for music, his education under Isaac and his gratitude to that master.

In 1520 he was at Augsburg, received a present of fifty florins from Charles V on 19th Feb., and in the following Nov. he personally edited the 'Liber selectarum cantionum' one of the first music books printed in Germany. He then went to Munich, though it is uncertain in what capacity.

We would like to thank Philip Thorby for his generous help in preparing this edition.

Translation (Psalm 133)

Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for the brethren to dwell together in unity. It is like the precious ointment upon the head that ran down upon the beard, even Aaron's beard: that went down to the skirts of his garments. As the dew of Hermon, and as the dew that descended upon the mountains of Zion: for there the Lord commanded the blessing, even life for evermore.