

ZEFIRO

*sings*

## MARIAN ANTIPHONS



Friday, March 27, 2009, 8:00 pm  
S. Stephen's Church  
114 George St., Providence, RI

Sunday, March 29, 2009 4:00 pm  
The Nave Gallery, Clarendon Hill Presbyterian Church  
155 Powderhouse Blvd., Somerville, MA

Friday, April 3, 2009, 8:00 pm  
Brickbottom Gallery  
1 Fitchburg St., Somerville, MA





*Salve Regina*

**Plainchant**

Solemn Tone

**Francis Poulenc**

1899 – 1963

**William Cornysh**

1465 – 1523



*Alma Redemptoris*

**Plainchant**

Solemn Tone

**Aires Fernandez**

fl.ca. 1550

**Johannes Ockeghem**

c. 1410 – 1497

**Tomás Luis de Victoria**

1548 – 1611



*Pauline Lim & Cory MacLean*, soprano  
*Ruth Berry & Allegra Martin*, alto  
*Jonathan Wiening & Joel McCoy*, tenor  
*Jonathan Moore & Jacob Cooper*, bass

*Zefiro* is a Boston- and Providence-based ensemble of eight singers devoted to performing sacred a cappella vocal music of the 14<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup> centuries. Founded by six members of the group formerly known as *passio*, this award-winning ensemble takes inspiration from specialist groups around the world such as the Tallis Scholars, the Sixteen, and the Taverner Consort. *Zefiro's* credits include winning a project grant from the Somerville Arts Council, chapter of the Massachusetts Cultural Council and National Endowment for the Arts; and an invitation to participate in the Society of Historically Informed Performance (*SoHIP*) 2009 Summer Concert Series; with upcoming performances in Boston, Weston, Andover, and Nahant. For more information, please visit our website at [www.zefiroensemble.com](http://www.zefiroensemble.com). To book us for an event, please send email to [zefiroensemble@gmail.com](mailto:zefiroensemble@gmail.com).

### **Program Notes**

The Marian antiphons are a group of sacred devotional songs in the Gregorian chant repertoire of the Roman Catholic Church, sung in honor of the Virgin Mary. The original manuscripts date back to the 12<sup>th</sup> century. There are four chants in current usage, each associated with one of the four seasons of the liturgical year. They are sung at the end of the evening monastic offices of Compline or Vespers.

These texts and melodies have been the source of hundreds of brilliant and moving works by various composers down through the centuries, of which we offer a very small selection today.

## Texts

### *Ave Regina*

*Sung from Candlemas to Maundy Thursday*

Ave Regina coelorum, ave  
Domina angelorum Salve, radix  
sancta, ex qua mundo lux est  
orta: Gaude gloriosa, super  
omnes speciosa: Vale, valde  
decora, et pro nobis semper  
Christum exora.

*Hail, Queen of heaven, hail,  
Mistress of the angels, hail, holy root  
from which came the light of the  
world. Rejoice, glorious one, beautiful  
above all others. Hail and farewell  
most gracious, Always plead with  
Christ for us.*

*In the setting by Dufay, the text is interspersed with pleas from the composer:*

Miserere tui labentis Dufay, ne  
peccatorum ruat in ignem  
fervorum. Miserere genitrix  
Domini, Ut pateat orta coeli  
debili. Miserere supplicanti  
Dufay. Sitque in conspectu  
tuo mors eius speciosa. In  
excelsis ne damnemur,  
Miserere nobis. Et iuva ut in  
mortis hora nostra.

*Mercy on thee for thy missteps,  
Dufay, neither let [thy] sins destroy  
[thee] with raging fire. Have mercy,  
Mother of God, so that an opening  
to heaven may be made by [his]  
feeble works. Have mercy, Dufay  
prays, let his death also be lovely in  
thy sight, so that he not be  
condemned on high. Have mercy on  
us, and assist us even at the hour of  
our death.*

*Translation by Peter T. Gibson*

### *Regina Coeli*

*Sung during Paschal-tide\**

Regina coeli, laetare, alleluia,  
quia quem meruisti portare,  
alleluia, resurrexit sicut dixit,  
alleluia; ora pro nobis Deum,  
alleluia.

*Queen of heaven, rejoice, alleluia, for  
be whom you were merited to bear,  
alleluia, was resurrected as he said,  
alleluia; entreat God for us, alleluia.*

*\*We ask divine absolution for the singing of "Alleluia" during Lent.*

*Salve Regina*

*Sung from Trinity Sunday to Advent*

Salve, Regina, mater  
misericordiae; vita dulcedo et  
spes nostra, salve, Ad te  
clamamus, exsules filii Evae.  
Ad te suspiramus, gementes et  
flentes in hac lacrimarum valle.  
Eia ergo, Advocata nostra, illos  
tuos misericordes oculos ad nos  
converte. Et Jesu, benedictum  
fructum ventris tui, nobis post  
hoc exsilium Ostend. O  
Clemens: O pia: O dulcis Virgo  
Maria.

*Hail, holy Queen, Mother of Mercy,  
our life, our sweetness and our hope.  
To thee do we cry, poor banished  
children of Eve; to thee do we send up  
our sighs, mourning and weeping in  
this vale of tears. Turn then, most  
gracious advocate, thine eyes of mercy  
toward us; and after this our exile,  
show unto us the blessed fruit of thy  
womb, Jesus. O clement, O loving, O  
sweet Virgin Mary.*

*Alma Redemptoris*

*Sung from Advent to Candlemas*

Alma Redemptoris Mater, quae  
pervia caeli porta manes, et  
stella maris succurre cadenti  
surgere qui curat, populo: tu  
quae genuisti, natura mirante,  
tuum sanctum Genitorem,  
Virgo prius a posterius  
Gabrielis ab ore sumens illud  
Ave; peccatorum miserere.

*Loving mother of the Redeemer, that  
passage to heaven, gate of the  
morning, and star of the sea, assist  
the fallen people, who strive to rise,  
you who bore to the wonderment of  
nature, your holy Creator, Virgin  
before and after, who received from  
Gabriel that joyful greeting. Hail;  
have mercy on us sinners.*