# In presepio Medieval songs for the Christ-child

The rich monastic and lay spirituality of the later Middle Ages laid a renewed emphasis on the celebration of the Feast of the Nativity, and saw



the rise of a particular affective devotion to the infant Jesus, the Christ-child, expressed in visual art, in chants and carols, in prayers and in newly-developed liturgies. This programme will explore liturgical and devotional music from various regions of late-medieval Europe, with readings from poets, mystics, and other writers of the period.

Friday, December 18, at 8 pm

# Incendium amoris Music from a mystical manuscript



Music figured prominently in the mysticism of the English hermit Richard Rolle (d. 1349). It's not surprising, then, that a body of music

is attached to one of the manuscripts of his *Melos amoris*. Although most of the composers are unknown, John Dunstaple,

John Plummer and possibly Leonel Power are represented. SING NOMING, in collaboration with Fordham University scholar Andrew Albin, explores the relationship between Rolle's text and the music which enriches it.

Friday, February 26, at 8 pm

#### De animalibus A medieval musical Bestiary

The medieval bestiary was a compendium of natural history, legend, and pious allegory. Beginning with the 7<sup>th</sup>-century *Physiologus* of Isidore of Seville, these



anthologies described animals familiar, exotic, and imaginary, their appearance, habits, symbolism, and theological significance; many were decorated with remarkable miniatures. The wealth of moral and mystical interpretation in these collections informed generations of poets and musicians. Our final programme of the season offers a tantalizing introduction to the place of the bestiary in medieval culture.

Friday, April 29, at 8 pm

All concerts take place at **Saint Thomas's Anglican Church, 383 huron Street** (one block south of Bloor, between St George and Spadina)

#### ORDER FORM

SINE NOMINE's single-ticket sales are handled by the University of Toronto box office, UofTtix:

UofTTix Box Office uofttix.ca 416-978-8849

- open Monday through Friday, 11 am to 5pm for phone & in-person sales
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- located in Hart House (lower level)
   7 Hart House Circle
   (west side of Queen's Park Circle,
   northwest of Wellesley Street West
   & Queen's Park Crescent West;
   4-minute walk south of the Museum subway station).

Tickets: \$20 (\$15 for students, seniors, unwaged)

Subscriptions may still be ordered directly from SINE NOMINE:

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Subscriptions will be held for pick-up at the first concert.

SINE NOMINE can be reached

by mail:

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by telephone: 416-638-9445

by e-mail: sinenominetoronto@gmail.com

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Contact us for more information about any of this season's concerts, or to sign up for e-mail reminders of upcoming performances.



PHOTO: Cathy Martin

### sine nomine

## Ensemble for Medieval Music



2015-2016 season