

La Lauzeta - Libes Sūeze

Libes Sūeze - the sweetness of the world, of the here and now. This concept, taken from a song of his contemporary Walther von der Vogelweide, describes in only two words what Heinric van Veldeke's poetry is all about. Where others complain about the cruelty of their lady, he wins her favour; where others are troubled by winter's harshness, he basks in spring's hopefulness and the promise of new growth. Veldeke's songs show a directness and optimism that is very appealing, and his characters, especially - unusually - the women, spring so vividly from his words that we almost seem to know them. With Veldeke, it is easy to forget the hundreds of years that separate our world and his.

Heinric van Veldeke has left us the words of his songs, but no melodies. This is why this program contains three different approaches towards an understanding of Veldeke's work. Either one of them alone shows only a part-truth, but together they (hopefully) let us get a glimpse of what Veldeke might have been to his contemporaries. First we have the songs themselves; by looking at existing melodies we have tried to give them a new melody that fits the mood of the song and the little we know of the music of that time and place: Veldeke's songs could have sounded something like this. Then we have his great work, the Eneit, the tale of Eneas' travels after the destruction of Troy. We can only guess how this might have been performed, but it lends itself to a mixture of musical and non-musical declamation. The tale is in the centre of the performance; the music is not fixed, it comes from the words themselves and is free and ever-changing, though modally bound. Lastly, there are some songs of that time where the melodies have come down to us: the songs of Neidhart. They have been an inspiration for our new Veldeke melodies, and give a glimpse on what 'real' Minnesang might have sounded.

The following program lasts 30 minutes.

Swer mir schade an miner vrouwen (Veldeke)

Regina Schmidt (Voice)

Er hat ze lange mich gemiten (Reinmar)

Lamento di Tristano: La Rotta

Regina Schmidt (Voice), Johannes Vogt (Lute)

Eneit: Eines tages hiez im Eneas (Veldeke)

Regina Schmidt (Recitation)

Summer unde winder (Neidhart)

Olaf Krause (Voice/Hurdy-Gurdy)

Eneit: Ich chundes luzel hiute fruo (Veldeke)

Regina Schmidt (Recitation)

Mir ist ummaten leyde (Neidhart)

Olaf Krause (Voice/Hurdy-Gurdy)

Swer ze der minne (Veldeke)

Regina Schmidt (Voice), Johannes Vogt (Lute)

Ez sint guotiu niuwe maere (Veldeke)

Regina Schmidt (Voice), Johannes Vogt (Lute), Olaf Krause (Hurdy-Gurdy)