

Ansámbl Luython

The Bohemia Renaissance. June 11, 3:30pm

Berkeley Early Music Festival 2026

St Joseph of Arimathea Chapel, 2543 Durant Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94704,
USA

Program:

Karl Luython (1557-1620): Missa Quodlibetica #7

Kyrie

Thomas Podenstein (c.1600) Ballet in d

Gloria

Jacob de Kerle (1532-1591) Facies autem bovis

Credo

The Levoča Tablature (1676)

Sanctus - Benedictus - Agnus Dei

Karl Luython (1557-1620): Missa Quodlibetica #8 ad aequales

Kyrie

Jan Kampánus Vodňanský (1572-1622) Ode #9

Gloria

Jan Kampánus Vodňanský (1572-1622) Ode #26

Credo

Jan Kampánus Vodňanský (1572-1622) Psalm #6

Sanctus - Benedictus - Agnus Dei

Ansámbl Luython

Doris Williams (Soprano and Alto), Leandra Ramm (Alto), Fredrick Schaefer (Tenor), Richard Mix (Bass) Carlo Benedetti (cornetto), Colin Hamilton (viola), Richard Page and Kelsey Andrew Schilling (renaissance winds), Wesley Leffingwell (harpsichord), Vince Ho (positif and artistic director). Special thanks: Ansel Klucsor, Gesine Lohr and Eugene Petrushansky.

Karl Luython came from Antwerp and originally served as a choirboy for Holy Roman Emperor Maximilian II, then later on arrived in Prague to continue his career in the imperial court. He became the court composer of Holy Roman Emperor Rudolf II starting in 1603. He was both famous for his organ playing, his enharmonic harpsichord (19 keys per octave), and choral works. His Masses, including 4 Missa Quodlibetica (based on popular songs) were published in Prague in 1609. He stayed in Prague for the rest of his life. He died in poverty after the death of Holy Roman Emperor Rudolf II and the successor Matthias refused to pay his pensions and the entire Rudolf music court was dismissed.

Thomas Podenstein was the court organist for Holy Roman Emperor Matthias, who moved the court from Prague to Vienna gradually from 1620. This little Ballet in d is one of two of his surviving compositions, and most likely composed while still in Prague.

Jacob de Kerle was from Ypres. He was primarily responsible for convincing that the Council of Trent to retain music for church services. At the time, the polyphonic compositions have reached such a complex form that words were hard to be recognized. He had his musicians sing his

Preces Speciales (1562) three times a week outside the council where the debate was going on about banning music. His music convinced that polyphonic music, when well composed, would not obscure texts. He became Holy Roman Emperor Rudolf II's court chaplain in 1582, then following him from Vienna to Prague.

The Levoča Tablature was discovered in Slovakia. It contained dance music of the first part of the 17th century, including Polish, Hungarian, Slovakia, and even Cossack.

Jan Kampánus Vodňanský was a Czech humanist, composer, poet, dramatist and educator. Born in Vodňany, he spent most of his life teaching at the University of Prague. He was a Hussite most of his life. Some odes and psalms were most likely not composed by him, but compiled from various other local compositions, with help from friends such as Tobiáš Adalbert Vodňanský. Nevertheless the odes and psalms (1611-1618) represented the music of the time.