

MATER ECCLESIAE

Baroque dialogue between Germany and Spain

PERFORMERS

Alix Dumon-Debaecker *conductor*
Emmeran Rollin *organ*
9 singers

DURATION

1h10

This program weaves a fascinating dialogue between two deeply rooted musical traditions: the Spanish Renaissance polyphony, led by Guerrero, Lobo, and Victoria, and the counterpoint of Johann Sebastian Bach, master of German Baroque.

Far from being a mere juxtaposition, this program illustrates the evolution of sacred vocal writing. In the time of Victoria and Lobo, Spain flourished in Europe through its religious music, created for the grandeur of cathedrals and royal courts. A century later, Bach, in the more intimate Lutheran context, infused this polyphonic tradition with a new dimension, blending personal expression and spiritual meditation.

Among the gems of the program, *Versa est in Luctum* by Alonso Lobo reaches a pinnacle of intensity: composed for the funeral of King Philip II in 1598, it unfolds a musical lament of poignant beauty. In response, Bach's cantata *Gottes Zeit ist die allerbeste Zeit* (BWV 106), also known as *Actus Tragicus*, answers with radiant serenity, affirming that God's time is always the best.

The organ, at times an accompanist, at times a soloist, dialogues with the voices, unfolding all its colors to enhance the contrasts of this sonic fresco. The listener is invited on a journey through time and space, carried by the power and grace of music where Spanish fervor meets German rigor, doubt intertwines with hope, and lament transforms into light.

Organ and choir
German Baroque
Spanish Renaissance

VIDEO CLIP
Alonso Lobo *Versa est in Luctum*



They trust us: Monaco, Festival de Sablé

PROGRAM

Francisco Guerrero *Lauda mater Ecclesia*

Jean-Sébastien Bach *Sinfonia*, BWV 4 (transcription)

Jean-Sébastien Bach *Den Tod niemand zwingen kunnt*, BWV 4

Jean-Sébastien Bach *Fugue*, BWV 849

Alonso Lobo *Versa est in Luctum*

Jean-Sébastien Bach *Nun komm der Heiden Heiland*, BWV 659

Tomás Luis de Victoria *Ave Maris stella*

Jean-Sébastien Bach *Ich ruf zu dir*, « Orgelbüchlein », BWV 639

Jean-Sébastien Bach *Gottes Zeit ist die allerbeste Zeit*, BWV 106,
6°, 7° et 8° mouvements

Francisco Guerrero *Lauda mater Ecclesia*

Jean-Sébastien Bach *Komm, Jesu, komm*, BWV 229