

## Codex Lerma. The Found Manuscript

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Codex Lerma is a Spanish manuscript copied in Spain at the end of 16th century, which once belonged to the music library of the Duke of Lerma, favourite of Philipp III. It was discovered in the 1950's by Maarten A. Vente, lecturer and curator at the Instituut voor Muziekwetenschap of the University of Utrecht, who, while visiting the San Pedro de Lerma church in Spain, saw a large choir book laying in the sacristy. Its keeper had not much use for the old and tattered codex, and Vente offered to buy it. It was officially purchased in 1959, being thus saved from further deterioration.



The codex contains Italian madrigals, French chansons and instrumental dances. It is very important source of franco-Flemish polyphony, and the main source for music by Lasso in the Iberian peninsula. Some of the composers are virtually unknown, like Corfini or Primavera.

For most of the dances, Codex Lerma is the only source, including Horten and Lutens by Clemens non papa. The madrigal "Pon freno al gran dolor" which sets a text by Petrarca, is also *unicum*. Since it is anonymous, and it is not transcribed into modern notation, it is never performed. The madrigals by Striggio, although known through their own editions, are rarely performed. This is also the case of pieces like the motet for seven voices "Beata es Virgo" by Philippe Verdelot, possibly the most perfect of all his masterpieces.

Codex Lerma. The Found Manuscript was premiered in The Netherlands in 2014 with the support of the Utrecht Universiteitsbibliotheek, the Instituto Cervantes (Utrecht) and the Embajada Española (The Hague). In 2018 was performed for the first time in Spain at the Festival Internacional de Arte Sacro (Madrid) and the Festival de Música Antigua (Sevilla)

## Musicians

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7 singers  
4 winds (cornetto, 2 sackbuts, 1 curtal)  
1 conductor

## Biographies

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## Capella Sancta Maria

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Based in Amsterdam (The Netherlands), Capella Sancta Maria is a professional vocal ensemble specialized in music of the Renaissance. It is made up of singers of international reknown, like Jan van Elsacker (l'Arpeggiata, Weser Renaissance), Joel Frederiksen (Ensemble Gilles Binchois, Huelgas Ensemble.), Marc Busnel (Ensemble Clément Janequin, Douce mémoire) or Michaela Riener (Huelgas Ensemble, Netherlands Bach Society), as much as young talents. In 2018 Capella Sancta Maria made its debut in Spain during the *Festival de Musica Antigua de Sevilla* (Spain) and the *Festival Internacional de Arte Sacro* (Madrid) performing the Codex Lerma, a forgotten Spanish manuscript nowadays preserved in the library of the University of Utrecht. Capella Sancta Maria has performed widely in the Netherlands, in festivals and series like Utrecht Early Music Festival (Fringe), Noorderkerkconcerten (Amsterdam), Musica Antica da Camera (Den Haag)

## Enrique López-Cortón

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Conductor and singer Enrique López-Cortón (La Coruña, Spain 1969) has established a reputation in Holland as a specialist in renaissance music. He also conducts major choir and orchestra works, ranging from 18<sup>th</sup> century classics like Bach's *St John Passion* or Mozart's *Requiem*, until Elgar's *The Music Makers* or Takemitsu's *My way of life*. Having studied conducting in Barcelona with Manuel Cabero and Mireia Barrera, in 1999 he arrived to The Netherlands to study choir conducting at Conservatorium van Amsterdam with Jos Vermunt and Jos van Veldhoven, and later orchestral conducting with Jurjen Hempel. He studied singing with Xenia Meijer and Claron McFadden. In Tilburg he was a student of Dr. Rebecca Stewart in her Early Polyphony and Gregorian Chant program.



## La Caravaggia

La Caravaggia is a windband from Barcelona specialized on renaissance and baroque music. It has performed widely in Spain and abroad, also with well know ensembles like Les Sacqueboutiers, La Colombina, Nova Lux or Capilla Reial de Catalunya. It was founded by its director, cornetist Lluís Coll, trombonists Jordi Giménez and Xavier Banegas, and Joaquim Guerra, dulcian and shawm.



Capella Sancta Maria & La Caravaggia at the Festival Internacional de Arte Sacro (Madrid 2018):

