

**SCHOLA PASTORIS
ANTIQUÆ MUSICÆ**

early music ensemble

Honey Meconi, director

with

Nikkola Carmichael, guest artist

HILDEGARD 900

on her Feast Day

Thursday, September 17, 1998

7:30 p.m.

Edythe Bates Old Recital Hall

RICE UNIVERSITY

the
Shepherd
School
of Music

MUSIC OF
HILDEGARD VON BINGEN
(1098-1179)

O virga ac diadema

Nikkola Carmichael, soloist

O ignee spiritus

O frondens virga

O lucidissima apostolorum

Nikkola Carmichael, soloist

O mirum admirandum

O tu illustrata

Columba aspexit per cancellos

Nikkola Carmichael, soloist

O virga ac diadema

Nikkola Carmichael, soloist

*The audience is kindly requested to withhold applause
until the conclusion of the program.*

THE ENSEMBLE

Erin Bennett, voice
Nikkola Carmichael, voice
Tiffany Cochran, voice
Courtney Daniel-Knapp, voice
Marsha Elliott, voice
Angela Marroy, rebec
Honey Meconi, voice
Tanya Elise Stern, voice
Caen Thomason-Redus, flute

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Special thanks to Nikkola Carmichael, Matt Coldwell, Michael Hammond, Clyde Holloway, Tom Littman, Marty Merritt, and Michel and Yannick Godts for helping make tonight's concert possible. Plus kudos, as ever, to Sun-Maid Raisins for their Victory Cake recipe, and loving thoughts to all former Hildegardians who are with us in spirit if not in body tonight.

PROGRAM NOTES

1998 marks the nine hundredth anniversary of the birth of Hildegard of Bingen, who was spiritual leader, visionary, theologian, hagiographer, scientific writer, healer, playwright, poet, composer, performer, and much more. The tenth and last child of noble parents, her precise birthdate is unknown, but by the day of her death—September 17, 1179—she was one of the most famous individuals of the twelfth century. A campaign for her canonization was begun immediately thereafter, but it faltered in the thirteenth century. Despite lack of official approval from the medieval church, her name is found in numerous sacred calendars of the following centuries, new liturgy was written to celebrate her Feast Day (September 17), and her bibliographic categorization in the Library of Congress catalogue is as Saint Hildegard.

And she may indeed be a saint. With the international revival of interest in her unique contributions, the process for canonization has begun anew. Today in Bingen, in connection with anniversary observances there, a message from the Vatican was read. Did it contain a statement that she had been formally recognized as a saint? I have no way of knowing as I write these notes. Tonight's concert, though, is organized around readings as to why she may have claims to sanctity, some taken from the original documents pleading her case. Musical selections are chosen, as always, for their beauty and interest, mixing several Houston premieres with old favorites; as the Duchess of Windsor is reported to have said, "You can never be too rich or too thin or hear **Columba aspexit** too many times." We hope you enjoy this very special day.

— Notes by Honey Meconi

HILDEGARD 900/HILDEGARD AT RICE

Tonight's concert is one of several events offered at Rice this fall in celebration of the 900th anniversary of the birth of Hildegard of Bingen. In addition to this evening's performance, marking Hildegard's feast day, two courses, a symposium, and another concert are planned. Starting on October 14, the School of Continuing Studies, (713) 527-4803, is offering a course entitled "Hildegard of Bingen: A Woman for All Ages" for members of the greater Houston community. For Rice students, a seminar on Hildegard is offered jointly by the The Shepherd School of Music and

the Program for the Study of Women and Gender. On November 20-21, the Neil J. O'Brien Triennial Symposium in Medieval Studies will gather a coterie of internationally-renowned scholars to discuss "Constructing Hildegard: Reception and Identity 1098-1998"; the lectures are free and open to the public. As part of the Symposium, famed British early music group Sinfonye will present a concert of Hildegard's music on Friday evening, November 20; contact co-sponsor Houston Early Music, (713) 432-1744, for tickets. For more information on all activities, see <<http://www.rice.edu/hildegard>> or call (713) 527-4854.

In a fitting tribute to Hildegard's own multi-faceted creativity, the events of Hildegard 900/Hildegard at Rice are made possible by a unique interdisciplinary collaboration among The Shepherd School of Music, The School of Humanities, The School of Continuing Studies, Medieval Studies, The Center for the Study of Cultures (all of Rice University) and Houston Early Music. We would like to thank all of them for their unflagging support of the festivities.

BIOGRAPHIES

After receiving her Ph.D. from Harvard University, HONEY MECONI was Post-doctoral Fellow in Music at Villa I Tatti (Florence, Italy), before joining the faculty of Rice University, where she is currently Associate Professor of Musicology and Director of Medieval Studies. In addition to directing Schola Pastoris Antiquæ Musicæ, which she founded upon coming to Rice, she has also led early music ensembles at Indiana University and Harvard. A specialist in music before 1600, she has contributed to scholarly publications such as *Early Music*, *Journal of the American Musicological Society*, *I Tatti Studies*, *Journal of the Royal Musical Association*, and *Journal of Musicology*, and has prepared several performing editions of fifteenth- and sixteenth-century music. Her most recent work, *The Secular Music of Pierre de la Rue*, will be published by Oxford University Press. Her research has received support from the Fulbright Foundation, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, among others, and she is a frequent speaker at international gatherings both here and abroad. In August 1997 she was the first scholar in the seventy-year history of the International Musicological Society to speak about Hildegard at its quintennial meeting. Her interest in Hildegard dates from 1982 when she was music director for a production of *Ordo virtutum* at Harvard University, and she is currently completing a book on the composer, entitled *Hildegard's Music*.

NIKKOLA CARMICHAEL is a 1995 cum laude graduate of Rice University, where she was a double major in the quintessentially medieval combination of mathematics and music. A student of Virginia Babikian while at Rice, her focus on early music has since led her to study medieval performance with leading professional ensembles *Sequentia* and the *Newberry Consort*; she is now a private student of Mary Springfels. She is currently a doctoral candidate at the University of Chicago where she is studying medieval music history with, among others, Anne Walters Robertson. She remains an active performer in several ensembles, including *Ad astra*, a women's ensemble specializing in music of the Middle Ages and Renaissance. Her future plans include upcoming performances of Hildegard in Chicago as well as a presentation of her original research on Machaut at the International Medieval Congress in Kalamazoo.