

Schola Gregoriana Pragensis, male ensemble (CZE)

Schola Gregoriana Pragensis was founded by David Eben in 1987. It has been very active since the end of 1989, recording and often performing in concerts both in the Czech Republic and abroad (Italy, Spain, France, Belgium, the Netherlands, Austria, Norway, Sweden, Slovakia, Hungary, Poland, Israel, Japan). The ensemble CD recordings have received numerous prizes (Choc du Monde de la Musique, 10 de Répertoire, "Zlatá Harmonie" for the best Czech recording of the year, "Recording of the Month" on the MusicWeb International website). The ensemble also records for the Czech Radio – the current count has reached a very respectable 319 pieces recorded. The Schola has taken part in different projects with a plethora of top Czech and foreign performers (Petr Eben, Jiří Bárta, Jaroslav Tůma, Iva Bittová, Hana Blažíková, Choeur grégorien de Paris, Capilla Flamenca, Boni pueri, Musica Florea, the Gjosan-ryu tendai shomyo Japanese Buddhist monk ensemble, Varmužova Cimbalom Music, Jenaer Philharmonie, ad.). The group belongs to the foremost world performers of medieval sacred music. It concentrates both on the semiological interpretation of the Gregorian chant based on the oldest neumatic sources from the 10th and 11th century and performing Gregorian chants of local plainchant tradition including examples of early polyphony. Thanks to the intense study of medieval sources the programmes often include a number of unique and newly discovered pieces from 13th-15th century. The vast repertoire of the ensemble also includes contemporary music (such as on the CDs "Antica e moderna" and "Dialogues"). The listeners as well as the professional public value the recordings as well as the concerts of the ensemble for the originality of the dramaturgy and the musical interpretation with which the ensemble brings alive the repertoire originating from the very roots of European musical culture.