

PRIMA CLASSIC PRESENTS



*"Our collection of music for the Christmas season explores polyphonic music of the 15th and 16th centuries in historically-appropriate adaptations for the ideal combination of solo voice and lute. The music on this album offered the welcome opportunity to return our roots as church musicians dedicated to singing the traditional Latin Mass, and with the exception of the instrumental "Recercar" by Francesco da Milano, all of the music was arranged for solo voice and lute by Mignarda from the original polyphonic vocal music."*

**— Ron Andrico, Donna Stewart**

**First Single Out on March 14th, 2025**

**Digital Release UPC 199066724170**

The Orchard Distribution  
[www.theorchard.com](http://www.theorchard.com)

**Catalog PRIMA063**

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# CHRISTE REDEMPTOR

POLYPHONIC MOTETS FOR VOICE AND LUTE

1. Hodie Christus natus est, Adam Gumpelzhaimer, 1591
2. Verbum caro factum est Anonymous, Trent ms., 15th c.
3. Verbum caro factum est (lute), Anonymous English, 15th c.
4. Gabriel archangelus, Philippe Verdelot, 1532
5. Christe Redemptor omnium, Tomás Luis de Victoria, 1581
6. Recercar (lute), Francesco da Milano, 1536
7. O magnum mysterium, Cristóbal de Morales, c.1540
8. Angelus ad pastores ait, Hans Leo Hassler, 1591
9. Personent hodie, Traditional German, 1582
10. Tribus miraculis, Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina, 1590

The title, “Christe Redemptor,” establishes a theme for our album. While the office hymn is proper for the Christmas season, Tomás Luis de Victoria composed more than one setting of “Christe Redemptor,” with an alternate text and music for Feast of All Saints. We offer this contemplative collection of intimate performances of historical polyphony to celebrate Christmas throughout the year.

***Donna Stewart, voice***

***Ron Andrico, lute***





*Duo Mignarda*

The premiere professional lute song duo in the US, Mignarda has been sharing their engaging approach to historical music since 2003, setting a new standard for repertoire, interpretation and musicianship. Based in Cleveland Heights, Ohio, they have produced eighteen critically-acclaimed albums and published a series of editions of historical music for voice and lute.

Lutenist **Ron Andrico** was a seasoned professional performer of historical music and in theatre before discovering the lute while completing a degree in composition. He promptly set about researching the historical context of early music, and his research has led to publication of a growing series of important music editions and articles of scholarly excellence that have to do with identifying, elucidating and performing the sources of 16th century lute music. In addition to historical music for voice and lute, Andrico edited and published the original lute solos of virtuoso lutenist Ronn McFarlane. He was honored to collaborate on a project with noted Harvard musicologist, John Ward and Edward Doughtie, author of *Lyrics for English Aires 1596 – 1622*. He is the author of the internationally-popular blog, *Unquiet Thoughts*.

Mezzo soprano **Donna Stewart**, known for her warm tone and crystalline delivery of text, has received critical acclaim for awakening modern audiences to an appreciation for historical music. Her firm grounding in the practical application of Gregorian chant and medieval and renaissance polyphony stems from two decades with a five-voice schola cantorum dedicated to providing liturgical music for a weekly Latin Tridentine Mass. Drawing on the unique experience of singing this music in its liturgical context, she has developed an understanding of the use and form of historical sacred music, which lies at the very heart of a early music. In addition to her solo work with Mignarda, she has performed and recorded on the Koch and Onda labels with internationally-renowned Baroque orchestra Apollo's Fire, and has applied her gift for communicating the deeper meanings of texts to both renaissance lute song and old-time harmony, hymnody, and heartsongs. She has released, with great success, two albums of solo Gregorian chant.



# CREDITS

All music edited and arranged from original sources by Ron Andrico ©*Mignarda Editions*

Texts translated by Donna Stewart ©*Mignarda Editions*

Recorded at Electric Wilburland, Newfield, New York, in June 2024, by Will Russell, Engineer

Mixed and mastered by Edgardo Vertanessian

Artwork by Donna L. Stewart for Eglantyne Design

Booklet design by Jeremy Smedes

All texts by Ron Andrico and Donna Stewart

Executive Producer: Edgardo Vertanessian

Lutes

Ten-course lute in F by Nico Van der Waals

Eight-course lute in G by Richard Fletcher

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CLASSIC

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Catalog PRIMAO63