



CANTUS POSTERIUS

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in canto gregoriano – incontri internazionali di Firenze

**Basilica di Santa Trinita
Thursday 16 October 2014, 21.00**

**SCHOLA CANTORUM RIGA
conductor Guntars Pranis**



Schola Cantorum Riga was founded in 1995 as a special ensemble for authentic interpretation of Gregorian chant and different other Medieval repertoires. Step by step it became a group with a comprehensive and varied repertoire.

The singers of the group are professional musicians (music teachers, conductors, organists). During the years of its existence *Schola Cantorum Riga* has given many concerts and gained success both in Latvia and abroad.

The group is often invited to perform in various concert halls and churches of Latvia. Many successful projects have been hosted by Riga Cathedral. *Schola Cantorum Riga* always searches for the new ways to make a proper use of the unique acoustic possibilities provided by the beautiful Gothic building of the most important church building of Latvia.

For several years in turn it has been invited to perform at Latvian Early Music Festival in (from 1996). The festival gathers the best musicians for early music from all over the world.

Since 1997 Schola Cantorum Riga went on many concert tours in Germany, Austria, Belgium, Poland, Switzerland, Finland, Norway, Estonia etc. where it was warmly welcomed by the public and got exciting reviews. Regularly the choir participate in Gregorian Chant Festivals in Watou (Belgium), this festival gathers world-known early music performers and the best experts of this music genre from the whole world.

Schola Cantorum Riga has made several CD albums. The CD "Riga Mass" with Gregorian chant of Riga tradition has been awarded with the Latvian *Grammy* Grand Prix of the year 2003.



The founder and artistic director of the *Schola Cantorum Riga* is **Guntars Pranis**. Himself a professor in the Jazeps Vitols Music Academy of Latvia since 2001 and the music director of the Riga Cathedral since 2002. He regularly gives talks on early music at numerous courses and conferences in Latvia and abroad. Currently he writes his dissertation about Medieval music tradition in Riga. It was his idea and initiative to start the tradition of Gregorian summer institute in Latvia and he has been its artistic leader since 1993 till nowadays. Guntars Pranis has studied music in Latvia, Germany and Austria and his special interest has been Medieval music. He has studied with the most prominent authorities on Gregorian chant – Godehard Joppich, Johannes Berchmans Göschl, Franz Karl Prassl and others.



President **Federico Bardazzi**
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Capitolo Metropolitanano Fiorentino

