



# MURMUR MORI

◀ *new early music* ▶

## “VAGANTES”

*Music and poetry from the Codex Buranus*



[...] we grant this privilege out of our magnanimity to all scholars who travel from one place to another for the sake of study, and especially to professors of canon and civil law, so that both they and their envoys may go and live in complete safety in the places where the studies of letters are practiced. We deem it right, in fact, that, exercising such a praiseworthy activity, they should be supported by our approval and protection, that they should be preserved from every offense, so to speak, with a special affection, since they enlighten the world with their knowledge and educate their subjects to live in obedience to God and to us, his ministers [...]

This is an extract from the document called *Authentica Habita* compiled in Roncaglia by Emperor Frederick Barbarossa in November 1158, in which the Emperor grants privileges and immunities to the nowadays so called "Clerici Vagantes", figures in between jester-poets and ecclesiastics. These students and their erudite teachers have left us a poetical and musical repertoire of extreme interest for European culture, preserved mainly in the manuscripts Clm. 4660 and Clm. 4660, better known as *Codex Buranus* or *Carmina Burana*. These two manuscripts were written in South Tyrol between the 13th and 14th centuries and the poetic-musical corpus

includes compositions of erotic love, spiritual songs, Bacchic hymns and satirical songs. This repertoire was widely known in Europe and witnessed inside other manuscript sources, with the aid of those is possible to reconstruct the music of the poems. The ensemble Murmur Mori selected a part of this repertoire to offer an image of a Middle Ages full of color, fun, biting satire and social criticism.

### Program:

#### Estuans intrinsecus (Confessio Goliae)

Lyrics: Carmina Burana, BSB Clm 4660, f. 89r · Music: Vorau, Stift bibliothek, 374 "Ad terrorem omnium"

#### Bacche bene venies

Lyrics: Carmina Burana, BSB Clm 4660, f. 89r · Music: GB-Lbl, Egerton 2615, f. 96v

#### O Fortuna velut Luna

Lyrics: Carmina Burana, BSB Clm 4660, f. 1r · Music: Mirkò Virginio Volpe

#### Fortune plango vulnera

Lyrics: Carmina Burana, BSB Clm 4660, f. 48v · Music: Silvia Kuro, Mirkò Virginio Volpe

#### Veris Dulcis in Tempore

Lyrics: Carmina Burana, BSB Clm 4660 f. 36v · Music: BSB Clm 4660, f. 64r - El Escorial, Bibl. del Monestir, z.ii.2, f. 287r

#### Tempus Transit Gelidum

Lyrics: BSB Clm. 4660, f. 61v-62r · Music:

#### Fas et Nefas

Lyrics: BSB Clm. 4660, f. 1rv · Music: Pluteus 29.1

#### Exiit diluculo

Lyrics: BSB Clm. 4660, f. 38v · Music: Clm 5539, f. 35v

#### Alte clamat Epicurus

Lyrics: BSB Clm. 4660, f. 92v · Music: Walther von der Vogelweide, "Nu alrest leb ich mir werde", Münster, Staatsarchiv, VII 15

#### Danza bacchica

Music: Mirkò Virginio Volpe

#### Congaudentes Ludite

Lyrics: Clm. 4660, f. 49v / Music: Mirkò Virginio Volpe



### Musicians and Musical Instruments:

**Mirkò Virginio Volpe**  
Chant, Symphonia, Gittern, Frame Drum

**Silvia Kuro**  
Chant, Portative Organ, Bells, Tambourine

**Alessandra Lazzarini**  
Transverse Flutes

**Matteo Brusa**  
Citole, Drum

Murmur Mori ensemble has never used electricity or amplification during its shows, a choice that is not only aesthetic but determined by the desire to offer a more authentic listening experience, since ignoring or modifying the sound of the place would be a failure towards the music that Murmur Mori wants to reconstruct. Music resonates within historical environments that for centuries have returned it to our ears enriched with their personality.

### Biography:

CONTIGIT IOCLATOREM EX LANGOBARDORUM GENTE AD KAROLUM VENIRE, ET CANTIUNCULAM A SE COMPOSITAM DE  
EADEM RE ROTANDO IN CONSPECTU SUORUM CANTARE

*It happened that a Langobard jongleur came to Charlemagne and sang a little song  
composed by himself about this matter within view of his own people  
Chronicon Novaliciense, book III V.10 – 11th century*

What would probably scandalize the jongleurs, if they lived today, would not be seeing their lyrics performed, but witnessing a show without Love.

This belief generates the original expressiveness that characterizes the engaging concerts of the murmur mori ensemble where the audience often finds itself having an active role during the performance.

Inspired by the popular Muse and the realities in which she still survives, since 2015 Mirkò Virginio Volpe and Silvia Kuro have been investigating jongleurs poetry and music from the 9th to the 13th century, working directly on the original sources, bringing the earliest lyrics and melodies from Italy back to life. The musical instruments used are reproductions based on depictions from medieval sources.

In 2022 the French version of the musical program "Poetesses, Poets and Jongleurs of Italy" was presented at the prestigious "Festes Baroques" festival. In the same year, "Dançando La Fressca Rosa" was published: a mini-album resulting from Mirkò and Silvia's research on the Bologna Memoriali of the 13th century, carried out with the Alma Mater Studiorum of Bologna, MemoBo project; also in 2022 they released the single "Aiuta De', vera lus et garçat", a musical reconstruction of a troubadour Alba survived in a single manuscript written in a Piedmontese vernacular from the 13th century.

In 2023 they released the album "Canzoneta, va!" concerning the connection between Provençal and Italian poetry in the 12th and 13th centuries, in the same year they were contacted by the Italian Cultural Institute of Bratislava for two concerts included in the cultural events of the "Week of the Italian Language in the World", a success also replicated at the IIC in Cologne. Murmur Mori won the 2023 Medieval Italy award, ranking first in the "entertainment" category.

In 2024 after a serie of concerts in Europe, ended in France at Noirlac Abbey, the program "Canzoneta, va!" has been recorded live at Cantar di Pietre Festival by the Radio Télévision Suisse and RSI. In the same year Forum Musicum Festival (Narodowe Forum Muzyki) commissioned Murmur Mori a program focused on the theme of the crusades. After the success of the event held at the Town Hall of Wrocław, the repertoire was recorded for the album "Make love, not crusades".



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